



TODAY

NENEH CHERRY BOUNCES BACK



WEEKEND MONEY

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LETTERS P.19

EXCLUSIVE: STARTING ON MONDAY - THE LESSONS OF EURO 96



MONDAY

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'Unless he is restrained I shall suffer psychological pressure and become ill

Princess will take fight to High Court

By Emma Wilkins

THE Princess of Wales is prepared to give evidence in the High Court to support her claim that she has been psychologically abused by a freelance photographer.

Her commitment to enter the witness box came as Martin Stenning, a former despatch rider who took up photography four months ago, denied that he had harassed the Princess and said he would contest an injunction which bans him from approaching her.

The Princess has been warned that she faces cross-examination on her psychological condition and relationship with the media amid claims that she manipulates her own press coverage.

Despite the risks, she is keen to give evidence that Mr Stenning's alleged harassment has left her frightened, tearful and a virtual prisoner in her own palace, according to friends.

The High Court would provide an appropriate public platform for the Princess to explain how photographers make ordinary life impossible, sources said.

Should the case go to a full hearing, the Princess would become the first member of the Royal family to enter the witness box since the Princess of Wales, later Edward VII, gave evidence in 1891.

He was supporting a friend who had brought a claim of slander over an accusation

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that he cheated in a game of haccarat. In 1910, the future George V went to court in a case against a journalist who had accused him of bigamy, but did not give evidence.

The Princess was granted an emergency court order on Wednesday which restrained Mr Stenning from approaching within 300 yards of her, communicating with her, and harassing or interfering with her safety, security or well-being.

In her affidavit, the Princess claimed that Mr Stenning's relentless attentions left her suffering acute distress. "I constantly feel on edge and am unable to go about my daily affairs without feeling anxious and stressed," she said.

"I genuinely believe the actions of the Defendant (Stenning) are calculated to cause me harm. I fear that unless he is restrained I shall suffer undue psychological pressure and become ill."

Mr Stenning, 36, the son of an estate agent from Godalming, Surrey, frequently trails the Princess around London on his motorcycle. She has grown increasingly frustrated by his actions and has recently seized his ignition keys, cameras and crash helmet. All the property was

returned. While declaring that he intended to contest the injunction, Mr Stenning said he might give up photographing the Princess. "I don't want to frighten her. I wouldn't think of doing any other job, but maybe I could do a different kind of photography without bothering with the Princess," he said.

Mr Stenning, who was convicted of criminal damage four years ago after attacking the car of a woman motorist, said he had been made a scapegoat for the misbehaviour of other photographers because of his criminal record. "I'm denying all the allegations. She's just using me as a pointer for women's rights and I don't like being used," he said.

He is now looking for a deal with a newspaper to help to provide him with financial support.

Benedict Birnberg, Mr Stenning's solicitor, said his client denied molesting the Princess or making her cry. "My client has no desire to molest or harass the Princess and denies that he has done so. We will be defending the case."

"The order means that he is prevented from earning his living as a freelance photographer. It raises important questions about the freedom of the press," Mr Birnberg, a former chairman of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said he hoped to reach a compromise with Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor. "My client does not want to



Photographer Martin Stenning says that he "is denying all the Princess's allegations" of harassment

make a nuisance of himself but he does want to earn a living. I have no reason to believe that the Princess is unreasonable. I understand her worries. She is under the glare of the media and sometimes perhaps she over-reacts. But she has that role and has to live with it," he said.

If he could not reach a compromise and the case went to a full hearing, Mr Birnberg would instruct counsel to cross-examine the Princess. "I would love to do it myself as I am not averse to a bit of advocacy, but solicitors can't

appear in the High Court yet. Mr Birnberg, whose partner, Gareth Peirce, was the solicitor acting for the Guildford Four, said Mr Stenning would welcome financial support from a newspaper. "He is not on legal aid and he is open to offers. He does not have great resources."

An affidavit containing Mr Stenning's response to the Princess's allegations will be delivered to the offices of Mishcon de Reya, the Princess's solicitors, early next week and an intermediating

hearing will then be held at the High Court. The court could extend the restraining order until a full hearing in the new legal term, which begins in October.

Mr Stenning elected himself a member of the paparazzi after seeing other photographers at work and deciding it was a fast and easy way to make money (writes Kathryn Knight)

After several years working as a motorcycle despatch rider for the London-based firm Addison Lee, he struck up conversations with photogra-

phers in Marylebone, where the Princess visits her osteopath.

He handed in his notice and has spent the last four months in a pursuit of the Princess that other photographers say borders on the obsessive. However, the dream of easy money does not appear to have paid off. While Mr Stenning claims to have made £10,000 in the last month from his pictures, home for the last three months has been a shabby £50-a-week guesthouse in a run-down part of London Bridge.

Desperate students on college doorsteps

By David Charter Education Correspondent

HUNDREDS of students with disappointing A-level grades arrived on university doorsteps yesterday to plead face-to-face with admissions tutors after more places than usual had been filled early.

The squeeze on vacancies by this year's best-kept A-level pass rate has encouraged youngsters to travel to try to gain an advantage over telephone callers to course hotlines.

An unprecedented 66 per cent of all university places had been confirmed yesterday, leaving far fewer than usual available through clearing - the process of recruiting those without the A-level grades required for their first or second-choice universities.

One mother drove her daughter on a 400-mile round trip from Chelmsford in Essex to Leeds University where they found a science course place. A male student who drove from London to Leeds seeking an arts course was not so lucky. All those places had been filled by first-choice applicants gaining good grades when the A-level pass rate went up 1.8 percentage points to 85.8 per cent on Thursday.

Medical schools have been turning away very well-qualified students. Angela Millin, admissions officer at Southampton, said: "We filled all 145 places for medicine through conditional offers, and within hours of the results coming out we were turning away callers with four grade As."

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) has advised students that a personal appearance might advance their case because they can be on hand for any interviews. Universities yesterday said their hotlines were "manic" as

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Shares hit record as Britain goes in black

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE London stock market soared to a record high yesterday as investors cheered the first good news on the Government's finances for many months.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares jumped 35.5 points to close at 3,872.9. This caps a very strong run in which the index has risen more than 200 points over the past four weeks.

One trigger for the buying was news of bumper tax receipts which pushed the Government strongly into the black in July. The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement - which measures the difference between receipts and spending - showed a surplus for the Government of

£1.66 billion, far bigger than the City had been expecting.

The good news on tax receipts came across the board with income tax, VAT and corporation tax all up strongly in July. A majority of City voices warned against euphoria and argued that the Chancellor still has little room for a tax give-away in November's Budget. Even the Treasury said that yesterday's figures do not wipe out concern about a black hole in VAT receipts which seemed to open up earlier this year and which is even now being investigated by officials.

But Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Markets, said that tax cuts were firmly back on the agenda after yesterday's figures.

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Girl reunited with mother as Morocco jails drug father

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

AN EIGHT-YEAR old British girl was reunited last night with her mother but saw her father start a five-year prison sentence for drug smuggling. Both her parents had been arrested a week ago in the Moroccan city of Tangier when 440lb of cannabis was found in their caravanette.

Bewildered Victoria Richards spent a week in the care of the British consul in Tangier after watching police, believed to have been acting on a tip-off, arrest her parents, David and Jill Richards, at Tangier port after finding cannabis worth £850,000 hidden inside their vehicle.

Officials at Tangier court said yesterday that Richards, who lives in Alnwick, Northumberland, would spend the next five years in jail. His wife

was acquitted and expected to be freed at 9pm yesterday. The five-year sentence is relatively lenient considering the quantity of cannabis involved.

A spokesman for the British Consul said: "If this [sentence] is true it is a great decision for Mrs Richards. It is also good news for Mr Richards because his sentence could have been far heavier indeed."



Richards: five-year jail term seen as lenient

On Monday, two British women were jailed for five years and fined £387 each in Casablanca for attempting to smuggle only 11lb of cannabis. Sally Griffiths, 18, and Claire Martin, 19, yesterday lodged an appeal.

An eight-month crackdown in Morocco against the drugs trade has led to the jailing of 200 foreigners. Pauline Baird, 47, who also lives in Sycamore Avenue, Alnwick, said of the Richards: "Dave has paid the price for his stupidity. However bad their situation may have been this was just not on."

"The worst thing was that it got Vicky involved in something she should never have been exposed to. But when she and Jill return home it will be forgotten about in no time. It will not stop me speaking to Jill. With Dave in prison she is going to need all the support she can get."

Heatwave to reach 90F at weekend

By Robin Young

TEMPERATURES over most of Britain are likely to approach 90F (32C) this weekend. When slight fog clears this morning, almost the whole country should be left basking in sunshine, with temperatures up to 28C.

Tomorrow a further rise, to 30C, is expected and on Monday 31C or more could be reached. The heatwave will reach all parts except north-western Scotland and Northern Ireland, where it will be cloudy. Thunderstorms are likely to bring temperatures down again on Tuesday.

Despite downpours in parts of the South-East this week, hosepipe bans remain in Kent; the floodwater was the "wrong kind of rain", the Environment Agency said.

Forecast, page 22

Refs have last word as Babel kicks off at home

By Russell Kempson

REFEREES will shoulder a fresh burden when the football season kicks off today - one of language. After the glut of summer transfers, teams in the FA Carling Premiership will feature players from 35 countries.

England's Premier League has become a multi-cultural haven, with players from Croatia and South Africa to Greece and Russia, from the Czech Republic and Norway to Colombia, Senegal and Israel. West Ham United

boasts the most cosmopolitan line-up, with a ten-strong league of nations at Upton Park and barely a Cockney sparrow in sight. When the goals fly in, the players will celebrate, uronomstrate, in Czech, Danish, Romanian, Portuguese, Serbo-Croat and Finnish. Slaven Bilic, the Croat defender, also speaks French and German. Only Australians, Ulstermen and a lone Scot supposedly share a common language with the club's few Englishmen.

Yet the Premiership's 19 referees

that much maligned breed in any tongue, have hardly a second language between them. However, they insist it will not be a problem.

David Elleray, England's most senior referee, speaks French "un petit peu". He said: "I don't think any of our other refs speak any languages, I think I'm the only one, but that's not really a problem. We have a series of symbols and signs that will get our message across and, anyway, a lot of the players speak English or at least understand it."

Thirteen of the 19 are present or former referees or linesmen with Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and have refereed around the globe.

Of more concern to Elleray is many foreign players' penchant for theatrical tumbling over when fouled. "We'll need to keep an eye on it," Elleray observed. "I think it's a case of them having to adapt to the English game rather than us adapting to them."

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PLUS EXCLUSIVE

TERRY VENABLES

on Euro 96: from Gazza's goal to Southgate's shoot-out misery



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WEDNESDAY
Shearer's home debut

EDUCATION

AFTER A-LEVELS

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FRIDAY The state schools whose students scored the highest A-levels

SATURDAY Versace for the hip - Magazine

In her own words, the Princess tells of confrontations and private fears

He always follows me. I am a prisoner in my own home

Pack of poachers goes to ground

By JOE JOSEPH

THE affidavit says: "I Diana, Princess of Wales, of Kensington Palace, London, make Oath and Say as follows. The matters to which I now depose are either within my knowledge and are true, or are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

"I am being persistently harassed and pestered by the Defendant. Whenever I leave Kensington Palace during the day, the Defendant trails me. He usually waits near the entrance to Kensington Palace where he can see which way I turn when I leave home. He then follows me on his blue Suzuki motorcycle.

"He always drives his motorcycle as close as he possibly can to my motor car, even if this means travelling fast through red traffic lights at intersections. He seems to know my every movement.

"I first caught sight of the Defendant as I was leaving a medical appointment early in 1996. He was on his motorcycle waiting near the building I was in. He was carrying an Instamatic camera and appeared dishevelled and grubby.

"I set out below a catalogue of particular incidents involving the Defendant which to my great distress I vividly recollect. I do not have any police protection. Therefore I have no record of exact times and dates of these incidents. They have, however, all occurred in the last six to eight months. "On many occasions this year while I have been out with my children and their police protection officers, the Defendant has approached me. On one occasion he was particularly aggressive and shouted abuse at me.

"I explained to the police officers that the Defendant had been harassing me for some time. They physically removed him and told him to stay away. However, this did not deter the Defendant. The next time I left Kensington Palace, he pursued me again.

"I have in frustration shouted, calling him a stalker. He claimed that he was just a photographer not a stalker. This does not seem credible. I have never seen in the National Press any of the numerous photographs he appears continuously to take of me.

"I have asked the Defendant to stop following me. However, due to the extreme pressure his harassment has put me under, I have been reduced to shouting at him in public. Once, when I shouted at him to go away, he screamed, 'It's all your fault anyway'.

"On another occasion, the Defendant obstructed my path as I was leaving a restaurant. He pointed his camera right into my face. I noticed that it was no longer a little Instamatic camera but of a larger, more intrusive variety. Although close to tears, I asked the Defendant politely to hand over the film. He refused to do so.

"In the haste that followed, I managed to open the back of the camera and remove the film. The Defendant did not hesitate in pushing me quite hard in retaliation. This left me very shaken and on edge.

"The Defendant has deliberately ridden his motorcycle so close to my motor car that at times the two have collided, causing damage to my motor car. Sometimes when members of the public have seen the Defendant upsetting me, they have tried to come to my aid. The Defendant's reaction

has been to shout obscenities at them.

"This display of aggression scares me and the people nearby who witness it. They subsequently back off, leaving me on my own with him. The Defendant only ever goes away when I am reduced to tears. Even then, it is only temporary.

"As a desperate attempt to prevent the Defendant haranguing me I have in recent weeks grabbed his ignition key, a camera, binoculars, a flash and an invoice book from the motorcycle. I have subsequently returned this property to the local police station. Nevertheless the Defendant continues to appear every time I leave Kensington Palace and follows me wherever I go.

"Today the Defendant followed me home from the Harbour Club. He yelled at me, 'You've stitched me up'. I was alone and very unwell.

I responded that I did not know what he was talking about.

"I am informed by Commander Bob Marsh, Head of Diplomatic and Royalty Protection, the Defendant has a long history of violent behaviour and a number of criminal convictions recorded against him. Some of these I am informed and believe are linked to 'road rage' incidents such as smashing a motorist's windscreen with a concrete block.

"The Defendant continues to display aggression towards me. His motivation is unclear but his abnormal and irrational behaviour make me feel very scared. It has come to the point where my daily routine has to be altered to avoid coming into contact with the

Defendant. For example, I have recently had to resort to borrowing other people's cars or crouching on the seat in the back of my chauffeur-driven cars. I have had to cancel many engagements because at times I have felt too distraught to leave my home.

"The Defendant's behaviour has affected my public and private life to the extent that I have felt a prisoner in my home. I always leave home with an acute sense of anxiety. Sometimes I do not leave at all. I can no longer drive out of the gates at Kensington Palace without fearing what the Defendant might do to me next. His behaviour has prevented me from enjoying family occasions with my sons.

"I believe that there is a grave risk that the cumulative effect of this continued and unrestrained harassment will

permanently damage my health. The Defendant is ever present and it is only when I break down in tears that he gives me some measure of peace only to begin his pursuit soon after.

"I constantly feel on edge and am unable to go about my daily affairs without feeling anxious and stressed. The Defendant's behaviour has affected my ability to live in a happy manner. I have had to cancel many engagements.

"I acknowledge the unavoidability of being continuously followed and photographed as a consequence of my status and duties. However, I genuinely believe that the actions of the Defendant are calculated to cause me harm. I fear that unless he is restrained, I shall suffer undue psychological pressure and become ill."



Photographers watch for the Princess yesterday

TYPICAL Diana waits years for those pesky paparazzi to drift away from her Kensington Palace doorstep, then they all disappear at once.

Showing the cunning that has torn them into the Princess of Wales's constant shadow, that posse of gun-for-hire photographers who can pay for their second homes in Florida by taking pictures of her vanished yesterday when Fleet Street's regulars came to snap the men who take snaps of her.

Then the crowds outside the usual Diana-spotting arena - Kensington Palace, the Chelsea Harbour Club - swelled further as television crews came to film the snappers who had come to photograph the paparazzi who take the pictures of the Princess. They had to content themselves with photographing and filming each other.

"Here, leave it out!" shouts one of the snappers at the focused lens of a rival from another newspaper. "I'm supposed to be taking pictures, not having them taken of me. This always happens! Di complains about the paparazzi, our desks send us down here, and there's only other news photographers here."

Waiting round means little to the hard-core paparazzi who make following Diana a full-time job. Five or six tall her at any one time, using good contacts, quick reflexes, the patience you need to watch grass grow, aluminium ladders, mobile phones, luck and long lenses.

Most have three cameras around their necks so they can "really hose her down", as they put it, and turn a five-second appearance into 100 negatives.

Why do grown men do this? Because the "paps" dream of snapping Diana kissing a new man in her life: such a photograph would be worth a fortune.

Yesterday the Fleet Street photographers and television crews raced from Kensington Palace to Harbour Club to a coffee bar near the palace but neither the Princess nor her costellation of flashlit paparazzi were anywhere to be seen. Had a paparazzo actually made an appearance he might well have had grounds for an injunction against the Fleet Street pack for harassment.

Stalker jailed for harassing TV soap actress

By JOANNA BAILE

A MAN was jailed for three years yesterday for stalking a television actress and threatening to kill her boyfriend.

Neil Ritchings sent abusive letters to Rhian Jones for 18 months before turning up at BBC studios wielding a knife with an eight-inch blade. When security guards called the police he told them that he wanted to stab Miss Jones's boyfriend to death. Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Ritchings's obsession with the 25-year-old actress began

with normal fan letters to her after he saw her in a Welsh-language soap opera *Pobol y Cwm* (People of the Valley) when it was shown on BBC2. When she had a baby by her real-life boyfriend, he began sending hate mail.

Christopher Williams, for the prosecution, said: "The defendant told her he wanted to start a relationship with the actress and that he was obsessed with her and hated her boyfriend."

The court was told that the actress, who plays a mechanic in the soap, ignored the letters.

Ritchings, 26, from Bath, then went to the BBC studios in Cardiff but was arrested. While on remand he visited the studios again with a knife and had to be disarmed.

Judge Gibbon told Ritchings, who admitted all: "There is a risk that you will cause serious harm to members of the public. The only way I can protect the public is to give the maximum sentence. It is a very limited protection but it's the best I can do under the law."

Miss Jones is now living at a secret address.



Neil Ritchings wrote to Rhian Jones, seeking a meeting and threatening to kill her boyfriend



Desperate students chase few remaining university places

Continued from page 1 students bombarded them with inquiries before Monday's official start of clearing. Manchester Metropolitan University has had 47,000 calls since the A-level results came out.

Northingham University, which is unlikely to advertise any vacancies next week, had up to 100 visits from candidates yesterday despite being oversubscribed in almost all course

areas. Several students called in at Southampton University straight after receiving their grades, although tutors could do little more than discuss possible vacancies.

Scottish students bearing their Higher results have called at Edinburgh, although again places were few and far between and the university is not planning to advertise any vacancies next week.

Jess Enderby, a Ucas spokesman, said 192,178 first-choice places were confirmed yesterday, leaving fewer than 100,000 open. Many of those will be taken up with accepted second-choice offers, leaving fewer than the 41,000 available through clearing last year. Many universities were confirming places for students who just missed target grades rather than go into clearing.

Mr Enderby said: "Things should slow down from now on because all the easy decisions have been taken. It is certainly all happening ahead of last year."

Joyce Lewis, for Southampton University, said: "This year we are so busy we are going against the usual trend in mathematics and are filling up our courses there very quickly. We could do with more telephone lines."

Vanessa Bridge, of Leeds University, said yesterday: "Some people are so distraught when they phone up they cannot remember the course they applied for."

The Times higher education course listings service starts on Monday with up-to-the-minute details of vacancies.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

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NATIONAL SAVINGS



Searching for life after *EastEnders*: part of the cast of *The Married Class*, from left, Eunice Drewry, Jane Glennard, Catherine-Lyn and Brenda Ford. They hope to turn fans of TV soaps into theatre audiences

Britain's latest soap opera — live on stage every week

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COMPANY devoted to making theatre more accessible is staging the first professional weekly soap opera on stage. Every Wednesday evening, audiences in Beckenham, southeast London, will be able to catch a 30-minute show about a married couple from differing backgrounds. GIN Theatre Company, whose patron is

Joanna Lumley, will end each show or "episode" with a cliff-hanger to persuade audiences to return the following Wednesday. Sensitive to the power of its television rivals, the company has timed performances to start at 9.45pm to avoid clashing with the likes of *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*. Tickets will be £2. The company hopes to draw audiences who would not otherwise think of going to the theatre.

To make them feel at home, a couple of sofas will be placed among the audience seats. "Whoever arrives first can sit on them," said Ronnie Boorman, the scriptwriter. He is also hoping that the theatre's licensing laws can be relaxed so that audiences can eat and drink, just as they would in front of the television. Mr Boorman said his stories would be funny, "not overly funny with punchlines", but closer to

everyday life. He believes some humour works better on stage than television. He first staged theatre-soap with a group of amateurs. Both the cast and the audience insisted that he kept writing. This time, he is working with professionals at the GIN Theatre Company, based at Beckenham's arts centre. Their first show is on September 18. Sally Edwards, the director, said that she initially thought the

idea was too risky, but the writing was "so good" she could not resist it. This is Mr Boorman's first professional script but the company has a good record with writers. Tracy Hitchen, who made her playwriting debut with GIN, has been commissioned to write for *The Bill*. GIN has always worked towards making theatre more accessible. Ms Edwards said: "With *The Married Class*, we believe we

have created the perfect product — a genre that people are familiar with, live in an environment that may previously have been intimidating. By combining the two, we aim to show that a theatre is a place of enjoyment for all people." The story focuses on Michelle, a working-class girl, who is married to George, a middle-class boy, and their respective families. Mr Boorman stressed: "It isn't just a class war. It is a look at everyday

life from a slightly funny angle." It deals with issues such as compulsive gambling. He added that audiences would be encouraged to make a night of it, going to the centre's bar and listening to live music after the theatre. Catherine-Lyn, who plays Michelle and who is currently appearing in *An Inspector Calls* at the Garrick, said: "This is new and exciting, a chance to really develop a character."

Jimmy Hill sued over car firm's collapse

By ROBIN YOUNG

JIMMY HILL, the former football player, Fulham Football Club chairman and *Match of the Day* presenter, told a court yesterday that the sins of his sons were being visited upon their father. Mr Hill said that he had been shocked to discover that his sons had been using his name in an attempt to boost business at their used-car yard, GTI Specialists in Wimbledon, southwest London.

Six former employees of the firm are claiming a share of Mr Hill's fortune, on the ground that he should be held jointly responsible for unfairly dismissing them from GTI, which had an annual turnover of £3.5 million but went into liquidation last November with debts of £842,000. Mr Hill claimed he had no inkling that his name had been used for eight years on the headed notepaper of the business, which was run by his sons Duncan, 44, and Graham, 37.

Yesterday Graham Hill, of Cobham, Surrey, who designed the notepaper, told an industrial tribunal in Croydon, south London, that he thought the link to his famous father might improve the firm's image. He denied that his father, who ploughed tens of thousands of pounds into



Jimmy Hill yesterday: generous to his sons

the business, had ever been a partner.

Jimmy Hill told the hearing that the financial backing he had given the firm was made purely out of fatherly concern and not as a part of a partnership agreement. The money he had lent was never an investment, but a way of helping his sons to have a "pleasant" life, he said.

Mr Hill said that he had also given two Cup Final tickets to a friend in advertising who he thought could help Graham and Duncan when he learnt that they were saddled with repayments on the £750,000 lease on their premises. Mr Hill said: "Ret-

spectively, I wish I had been a partner. Without being disrespectful to my two sons, I think it would have gone better."

"I know my sons are not perfect and here or there they have a touch of extravagance. You could complain about me being foolish, but you could not complain about me being generous to my boys."

He continued: "I have from time to time lent considerable sums of money for the business and other things, but I am not and never have been a partner in that firm and, unfortunately, none of the monies I have lent have been refunded."

"I know absolutely nothing about cars. I do know how to drive one, but I have neither the interest, time nor desire to become involved in the business. I played no part in running it. I did not hire or fire employees."

Of the use of his name on GTI Specialists' notepaper, he said: "Quite frankly, it was a revelation. I have certainly never authorised or agreed to it and my boys said they had not realised the consequences of putting my name on the paper."

Graham Hill told the tribunal that the notepaper was rarely used and that he did not believe the use of his father's name would lead customers or employees to believe that he was a senior partner.

He said that, despite the firm's losses, its eventual collapse had been a complete shock, which was why he had not given his staff any warning about their impending redundancies.

"Up until the final day I told my wife not to worry as our father would help us out. Up until the last minute we were 100 per cent sure we could rescue that business. It was a complete shock to me when we had to do what we did."

The hearing was adjourned to a date yet to be fixed.



Duncan and Graham Hill, who used their father's name on their used-car company's letterhead

Football pools to tackle Lottery with TV show

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LITTLEWOODS Pools is holding talks with television companies to stage a rival programme to the National Lottery show on Saturday nights.

A celebrity sportsman would present the programme, which would be sponsored by the company on ITV. It would form part of a fightback by Littlewoods against the Lottery, which has taken almost a third of its business.

A £50,000 pilot programme, *The X-Factor*, was made by Yorkshire Television last month. It was presented by Tom O'Connor, but was not transmitted. It included a celebrity panel trying to predict

score draws. If the programme is given the go-ahead by the Independent Television Commission, it is envisaged that score-draw numbers would be read out by big names from the Premiership.

The athletes Roger Black and Sally Gunnell or the former footballer Gary Lineker might be considered for the presenter's job. The astrologer Russell Grant is tipped as an alternative to Mystic Meg. However, the plans may fall foul of ITC guidelines about programme sponsorship.

The Home Office signalled yesterday that the pools would be extended for the first time beyond football matches. Coupons will be available in shops

for events such as the Grand National or Wimbledon. The Home Office proposes to allow winnings to be collected wherever the coupons are sold. At present they can be paid only in betting shops or by post.

Littlewoods has shed 2,000 staff since the Lottery began. It sells 12 million coupons a week, compared with the Lottery's 68 million tickets. The pools are relaunched today, to mark the start of the football season, with a reduction in the number of games on the coupon to increase the chances of winning. People can now win up to £250,000 by predicting half-time scores.

Football, pages 42, 43, 44



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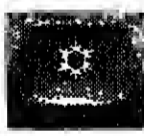
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'The effect could be obtained by travelling between Arizona and Zaire with the instrument case open'

Violin-maker finds way to emulate Stradivari

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

A PHYSICIST turned violin-maker believes that he has found a way to make new violins sound like old ones. Alan Beavitt puts his violins through a repeated cycle of damp and dry conditions, simulating in a few months the natural changes that he believes are responsible for making older violins sound better.

The results have impressed string-players. Simon Rowland-Jones, the viola soloist, says: "I am astonished at the difference. The previously robust tone has been transformed, as though it were suddenly a couple of hundred years older."

Why older violins sound better has long been a mystery. The best of all, made by Antonio Stradivari in Cremona, Italy, 300 years ago, have a tone that other makers have tried and failed to match.

Many special treatments have been proposed, from the use of silicate solutions to



Beavitt: physicist who became full-time violin-maker

stiffen the wood to soaking it in sea water or infecting it with bacteria to match the Strad sound. The old idea that it was entirely a function of the varnish he used has largely been abandoned.

Mr Beavitt made his first violin as a child but was persuaded that science was a more secure career. After working as a research physicist in Australia and Britain he finally moved to the High-

lands of Scotland and became a full-time violin-maker in 1984. His findings are published today in the magazine *The Strad*, widely read by string-players.

He argues that the changes in the sound of a violin over time are the result of slow changes, or "creep", in the wood. The process leads to a gradual stiffening of the wood which improves the playing quality and depends on regu-

lar changes in humidity. Mr Beavitt reproduces the effect in two ways.

He either puts his violin in a sealed container and controls the humidity with saturated salt solutions, or he pumps air of controlled humidity through rubber pipes into the interior of the violin.

The weight of the instrument increases in high humidity as it takes up water and falls again in low humidity as it loses it. Each complete cycle takes ten days and Mr Beavitt says that no further improvement is perceptible after six cycles.

"This is not a magic process for turning a frog violin into a prince," he says. "If a violin is built like a trade fiddle it is likely to sound like a 19th-century trade fiddle after conditioning."

There is nothing unnatural about the process. The effect could be obtained by travelling repeatedly between Arizona and Zaire, staying a few weeks at each location with the violin case open. The work-



Antonio Stradivari 300 years ago created a tone in his violins that other makers have tried and failed to match

shop method saves on time, trouble and aviation fuel. Tests carried out by staff at the Royal Northern College of Music suggest that Mr Beavitt might be on to something. They were asked to try a new violin that had been conditioned, but never played. They

were impressed. "There is something very rounded and mature in the sound that belies its new and unplayed nature," said Roger Bigley. "I was impressed by the power, clarity and warmth of the sound across its whole range."

Mr Beavitt suspects that his finding explains why violins kept in controlled humidity in museum cases lose their quality. "We have the intriguing possibility that a violin needs some humidity cycling to maintain its quality," he says.

He now uses the method with all the violins he makes, and would like other makers to try it. He finds all the previous explanations of the beauty of the Strad unconvincing. "People have said that it's the varnish, but some of the best-sounding ones have no varnish," he says.

Late gift will keep picture in Britain

By Shirley English and Dalya Alberge

A LATE pledge from an anonymous benefactor has stopped a 17th-century Italian masterpiece from being exported to America. The National Galleries of Scotland announced with "extreme delight" yesterday that Guercino's 8ft by 10ft painting *Erminia Finding the Wounded Torvald* would stay in Britain.

The Galleries had until midnight on Thursday to raise the £2.04 million asking price. They were £17,500 short as the deadline approached, but Timothy Clifford, Galleries director, told a press conference yesterday that by 11am on Thursday a donor had pledged to make up any shortfall.

It will now hang in the National Galleries in Edinburgh, where it has been on

show for two weeks, after cleaning and restoration work. Mr Clifford said: "The support has been marvellous."

The painting had been bought for £3.5 million by the Getty Museum in California. After negotiations which allowed for tax advantages, an adjusted price of £2.04 million was agreed with the sellers, the Howard family of Castle Howard in Yorkshire. A month-long appeal was launched. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave £1.5 million.

It is the second time that Mr Clifford has helped to prevent the Getty Museum from acquiring an art work from Britain. Last summer Canova's *Three Graces* became co-owned by the National Galleries and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.



Saved: the Guercino sold by Howard family

NHS rejects octuplet woman's funding plea

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE woman who is expecting octuplets after taking a fertility drug has been refused health service money to pay for her treatment by a leading obstetrician in London.

Mandy Allwood has been told that she could be treated just as well near her home in the Midlands as by Kypros Nicolaides, who is based at King's College Hospital. She was referred to Professor Nicolaides, who is an expert in selective abortion of multiple pregnancies, although she has said she wants to keep all the babies.

Miss Allwood, who has

been offered a six-figure sum for her story by the *News of the World*, became pregnant after taking medication supplied privately, rather than on a health service prescription.

The Solihull Health Authority, which buys treatment for patients in its catchment area, has refused to authorise payment after her request was considered by a committee of senior officers. A statement said that several local hospitals were suitable.

Miss Allwood and her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, both live in Solihull. She already has one child.

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This book from *Which?* also explains how crises such as divorce, redundancy and bereavement can increase

stress levels, and looks at anxiety, depression, phobias and eating disorders; physical illness and stress, including ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, back pain, asthma and eczema; dealing with bullying and work-related stress.

The Which? Guide to Managing Stress is required reading for anyone who suffers from stress and wants to learn from stress and stress defences. It costs just £9.99. To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP88, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

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PAUL BARNER

How green is their alley: Liall Bolens, left, and Chris McQuade before and after the transformation of Methley Terrace. The street will come alive with egg and spoon races, brass bands and circus acts

Street becomes village green as terrace turfs out the traffic

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE ROAD between two rows of back-to-back Victorian houses has been transformed into a village green for a summer fête today. The grey road surface of Methley Terrace, in Leeds, disappeared yesterday under 800 square metres of turf to be transformed into Methley Green for two days. It and the neigh-

bouring streets of Methley Drive, Lane and Place will come alive with egg and spoon races, brass bands, circus acts and barbecues. At night "the Green" will become an open-air cinema, with the film *Strictly Ballroom* projected onto the whitewashed end wall of the terrace. Adrian Sinclair, one of the organisers, said: "A lot of people want The Methleys, as the streets

round here are called, to be a greener place, with safer places for children to play and slower traffic. We thought we'd try making one road a field instead of tarmac. "Children have offered to water the grass regularly, but because of the hosepipe ban they'll have to use watering cans." The £1,500 cost of the turf is being met by Leeds City Council's

leisure department. Shell's Better Britain project and the pressure group Transport 2000. The project also has the backing of the police. Afterwards the grass, which is being laid by Inturf, which has also supplied Wembley, will be sold at 70p a square metre to make lawns for the residents. Derek Edwards, the managing director of Inturf, said: "Our sister company did something

similar on the Champs Elysées, but nothing like this in this country. It will be fine football-pitch grass, laid in rolls by a special machine. I have told them to moisten it so that it sticks better, but if it's hot, dry, sunny and windy there could be problems on Saturday afternoon." The Methleys have a reputation for devising grand schemes for

their activities. They first tried the open-air cinema last August, when 300 locals brought out their sofas and chairs to watch *The Commitments*. Four local girls acted as usherettes, complete with torches and name badges, handing out free popcorn. The 40ft-high "screen" was tastefully decorated with flowerboxes and two children gave up their bedroom so that the projector could

be positioned on a DIY workbench and pointed out of their window at the gable end opposite. Mr Sinclair, 33, said: "It was brilliant. The weather had been so sunny that it seemed the logical thing to do. We barricaded the road off at either end and it was just like the real thing. Some curious motorists who drove up to the wall parked their cars and joined us."



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Today's little girls have yesterday's views on top jobs

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE daughters of post-feminist Britain are turning into a generation of traditionalists, a survey disclosed yesterday. Girls aged seven to ten dream of a white wedding and believe the role of a parent is just as important as the job of President Clinton or a firefighter. They want to give money to charity, save for a rainy day and heal the sick. Girls rate the caring professions highly, with 17 per cent hoping to be a veterinary surgeon, 13 per cent a nurse and 10 per cent a teacher, according to the survey of 600 girls by Clark's, the shoe-makers. Very few wanted to be a journalist, waitress, librarian or politician. Dressing up as a bride is the favourite playtime activity followed by acting like a princess, a pop star or the Disney character Pocahontas. More than seven in ten said they had donated some of their pocket money to charity in the past year. Mathematics and art were the joint top subjects at school for 37 per cent of girls; only 7 per cent put science at the top of their list and only 2 per cent rated computing their favourite

topic. French, with just 1 per cent of votes, came joint bottom of the preferred subject league, along with technology and religion. Doctors and nurses came out top of the most-important-job list, closely followed by the Queen and the Prime Minister. A Clark's spokesman said: "It seems that today's modern career women, conscious of the compromises they made in combining the pressures of work and family life, are raising a generation of old-fashioned home-makers." Who has the world's most important job? The Pope and God each got just 2 per cent of the vote — 1 per cent below Virgin boss Richard Branson. When asked what superpowers they would give themselves, the vast majority of the girls opted for a cross between Mother Teresa and supergirl, "flying round the globe healing the sick and stopping wars." Traditional rollerskates were nominated best toy by one in two girls, followed by soft animals and Sindy. One in five girls said the TV remote control was their favourite toy.

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As the peat bogs go to pot the national grid looks for a boost from non-narcotic hemp

Irish have high hopes for cannabis, fuel of the future

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

CANNABIS will light up thousands of Irish homes by replacing Irish peat as a vital fuel to generate electricity. A fast-growing strain is said to be a perfect new crop for European farmers.

Scientists in Carlow, south-west of Dublin, have been growing cannabis in a secret area for the past four years, testing its properties as an energy source to burn in power stations. Dr James Burke, who has grown three acres under strict licence from the Department of Justice, said the plant flourished in Irish conditions, growing up to 14h high.

The crop is a strain developed in France for agricultural use. Called *Cannabis sativa L.* — also known as hemp — it is essentially the same plant smoked by drug users, but modern science has removed the narcotic element.

There is no possibility of everyone getting stoned from the fumes of a power station because the cannabis has no chemical constituent," said Dr Burke, who works at Teagasc, the agriculture and food development authority part-funded by the Government.

"Despite the name, it bears

no resemblance to the other plant. You would have to smoke five or six acres of the stuff we are growing to get a hit."

The plant has a slightly minty smell. Stringy fibres inside the stem hurn as well as wood and yield similar energy levels, but the cannabis is easier and faster to grow than wood and dries out more quickly. A typical growing season lasts six months, from April to September.

The fibres can also be used to make fine paper, canvas shoes or car bumpers. Ireland intends to be the first country to use it to generate electricity.

The Government is holding an international competition to find the best design for a biomass power plant, which would burn cannabis, waste paper and chicken droppings. The plant could be in operation by 1999, generating electricity for more than 30,000 homes — 1 per cent of Ireland's total energy needs.

Dr Burke said that *Cannabis sativa* would be a perfect alternative crop for farmers curtailed from producing more food for the European Union. At £190 an acre, it is £50 cheaper to produce than

wheat or barley. Ireland's planned use of cannabis is a far cry from the staple fuel of bog peat which has warmed Irish houses for generations. But the bog is running out. There are 1.2 million hectares of bog in Ireland, 8 per cent of them owned by Bord na Mona, the national peat cultivator. Peat accounts for 12 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity, fourth to coal, gas and oil. Bord na Mona says it has sufficient resources for another 30 years, after which its contribution to the national grid would dwindle.

Humans have been using hemp to make ropes and baskets for at least 6,000 years. The plant is widely grown in India and throughout Eastern Europe. Its main use is as a source of fibre used for twine, rope and string, and for coarse sackings and canvas.

The plant, an annual grown from seed, can grow as tall as 16ft. In dense cultivation it usually reaches 7ft to 10ft. The seeds are a source of oil used to make paints, varnishes, soaps and, more commonly, birdseed. The narcotic chemicals are usually found in the leaves and blossoms.



Dr Burke with his thriving crop. "You would have to smoke five or six acres of the stuff to get a hit," he says

NEWS IN BRIEF

£10m haul of cocaine on ship

Cocaine with an estimated street value of £10 million was found hidden in the gymnasium ceiling of a cargo ship, the *Front Guider*, docked in Moneypoint, Co. Clare. The cocaine was in 38 packages, each weighing about 1kg. The Swedish-owned ship had been shadowed by an Irish naval vessel. A Garda spokesman said: "It is a clear possibility that it was destined for other areas of western Europe."

Post strike days

The Communication Workers' Union extended strike action over pay and working practices in the Royal Mail. Sorting office and delivery workers will be called out on strike on August 31 and September 1 as well as August 30 and September 2.

Derby nostalgia

Racing silks worn by Lester Piggott on his first Derby victory on Never Say Die in 1954 are to be sold for about £500 to an auction devoted to racing at Sotheby's in London in November. Piggott, then 18, was the Derby's youngest winning jockey.

Noise fine for BA

British Airways was fined £2,600 after Concorde exceeded the permitted noise level at Manchester Airport. It was the fourth time in three months that the airport has fined the company for Concorde breaking the limits when taking off.

'Rab' actor dies

The actor Eric Collen, who played Wes Burney in the BBC television comedy *Rab C. Nesbitt*, died in hospital in East Kilbride after emergency surgery for abdominal pain. Collen, 31, appeared in the role of Rab's son, Wes Burney.

Sound purchase

An ultrasound system launched in Britain yesterday will enable doctors to make speedier diagnoses of more diseases. The machine, made by Acuson of California, doubles the amount of information available from existing systems.

Drug addict doctor speaks out to help sick colleagues

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent



Froggatt advised Thatcher

A FAMILY doctor who was an architect of the Government's health reforms is to speak publicly for the first time about his descent into drug addiction and his conviction for heroin offences. Clive Froggatt, 43, a confidante of four successive health secretaries, including Kenneth Clarke, will bare his soul at a medical conference on sick doctors next month.

Dr Froggatt, who was suspended from the medical register after he received a 12-month suspended sentence in March, has not worked for two years. The one-time pillar of his local community has been forced to

sell his home in Cheltenham; his wife, Paula, has returned to nursing to support the family.

The former Tory county councillor, who was brought in to advise on health reforms after meeting Margaret Thatcher at Chequers, will give a graphic account of his illness at St George's Hospital medical school in London. It is thought to be one of the first conferences of its kind on the plight of sick doctors. A health minister is expected to attend and will hear that, according to research for the British Medical Association, up to 14,000 doctors are addicted to alcohol or drugs.

Dr Froggatt, who hopes to return to clinical practice, accepted the speaking invitation to try to encour-

age other doctors who are battling against addiction to seek help.

He said: "What is it like to be a sick doctor? Bloody awful. For me, my wife, children, parents, extended family and friends. Professionally I died every day as I deceived my respected colleagues and exposed my patients at the very least to less than my best attention."

Dr Froggatt, who was convicted at Bristol Crown Court of obtaining heroin by deception after forging prescriptions, will call for a national treatment programme specifically tailored to the needs of doctors. He will also disclose that he was treated by three psychiatrists who failed to prevent him practising at his Cheltenham surgery and did not register

him, as the BMA ethics code demands, as an addict. "It was misplaced loyalty," he said.

"The worst time was when I was using and practising at the same time. The preoccupation with obtaining the drug and avoiding discovery took over and one led to another. It was a disgusting process of self-humiliation and self-deceit."

As each day passed Dr Froggatt, who blamed criticism of the health reforms for his addiction, expected to be exposed but could not halt the deception.

"It was the main problem, not the drugs. The ever-present tendency to deny the truth has the most corrosive effect."

"It prevented me from helping

myself and seeking help from others while I continued to sink deeper and deeper into my addiction. Not the love of my family, not the knowledge I had acquired professionally, not the clear possibility of serious punishment affected me when I was using. By then, in my own view, I was utterly unworthy."

Dr Froggatt, who has received a number of invitations to speak about his fall from grace, is still under medical supervision. "Doctors do not ask for help themselves, only for others," he said.

He was once a frontrunner for the post of honorary secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners, but his partisan support for the Tory party cost him the job.

Parents approve DNA tests for schoolboys

By Joanna Bale

THE parents of five schoolboys facing questions from French police in connection with the rape and murder of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson have agreed to DNA testing to eliminate their sons from the inquiry.

As five detectives arrived from France at the police station in Launceston, Cornwall, yesterday, Alan Wroath, head-

master of Launceston College, said the parents were willing to co-operate to solve the murder, which took place during a school trip to Brittany last month.

A spokesman for Cornwall Education Authority said yesterday: "They want to question a large number of people from the school party, not just the boys." Statements and interviews given in France after Caroline's death will be checked. All the interviews will be carried

out by Devon and Cornwall officers specially trained in conducting inquiries with juveniles. Assistant Chief Constable John Albon confirmed that the interviews and inquiries "will be conducted by English officers under English law".

Caroline was raped and murdered at a youth holiday on July 18 during a trip to Pleine Fougères with a 45-strong party of pupils and teachers from the mixed comprehensive school.

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Ulster BSE cull halted in dispute over money

By Nicholas Watt

ABATTOIR owners in Northern Ireland withdrew from the Government's cattle culling scheme yesterday, bringing the BSE eradication programme to a halt. The Meat Exporters' Association, which oversees abattoirs, is protesting at plans to cut the amount paid for each animal from £87 to £47.

In Britain the chief executive of the Intervention Board, George Trevelyan, who is overseeing the culling programme, said that he was still in negotiations with the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, the equivalent of the Northern Ireland association.

A spokeswoman for the National Farmers' Union said last night: "As far as I know these negotiations are on a constructive footing. There is no reason to believe that there will be a similar situation in England and Wales as there is in Northern Ireland."

German farmers have drastically cut their orders of British cow manure since the BSE scare, according to an exporter in Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. Major Frank Homfray said that buyers had told him there was no longer any demand.

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Roman writers reveal sex-and-sewing culture among the wealthy wives of occupied Britain

Empire's home-builders were liberated women

By EMMA WILKINS

WHEN Julia Domna, wife of the Emperor Septimius Severus, visited Britain in AD 208, every upwardly mobile Roman woman in the province wanted to copy her exotic hairstyle.

Fashion victims crowded to glimpse the latest trend of curly locks adorned with colourful ribbons before rushing home to experiment with crimping tongs. Her style was the talk of the smartest dinner

On Monday, in the final part of our series, the Romans in Wales

parties and set a trend that persisted for 50 years after her return to Rome. The prosperous Romano-British women were burdened with very few responsibilities outside the home but were in charge of domestic arrangements, including the provision of clothes for the family. Even in the most noble establishments, women were expected to spin and weave cloth. According to the historian

Suetonius, the Emperor Augustus had his clothes made by female relatives.

Girls could become brides as young as 12, but most delayed marriage until their early 20s. Julius Caesar noted that for a German "to have intercourse with a woman below the age of 20 is considered perfectly scandalous".

There was a tendency for husbands to be much older than their brides — military men were expected to wait until retirement in their forties before taking a wife. Divorce could be granted to either partner on the grounds of childlessness or adultery.

Among the general population, the vast majority of women joined their husbands to till the soil. Up to 90 per cent of the people worked on the land. Women in the towns also shared their husband's work, helping out as potters, weavers and bakers.

Few independent professions were open to women, apart from jobs as midwives, wet nurses, priestesses, acrobats and actresses — although



Augustus did ban anyone of senatorial rank from marrying an actress. A pair of leather pants, found during excavations in London, may have been the bottom half of a leather bikini — the costume favoured by female acrobats.

While Roman women had no political status, could not own property or bring any legal action, the native British women had wider roles, according to Lindsay Allason-Jones of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, who is the leading authority on women of the age.

It was not unusual for a woman to become tribal leader: two out of the three client kingdoms established after the invasion were ruled by women. Boudicca took over

leadership of the Iceni after her husband's death, Cartimandua. Queen of the Brigantes, betrayed Caractacus, the rebel British leader, winning prosperity for her people and consolidating her position as client ruler of the northern tribes. She divorced her husband, took his armour-bearer as her lover, and defeated his attempted rebellion.

Sex was freely discussed in pre-Christian Roman society. When Julia Domna visited the wife of a Caledonian chief, their conversation turned to carnal matters. According to an account by Cassius Dio, the Empress asked Argemottoxus's wife if it was true that British women slept with their husbands' relations.

The Scottish lady retorted: "We fulfil the demands of nature in a much better way than do you Roman women, for we consort openly with the best men, whereas you let yourselves be debauched in secret by the vilest."

Julia Domna, who enjoyed an intimate relationship with several handsome household slaves, was silenced.



Julia Domna: slept with slaves, while liberated Celtic wives insisted on "the best"

Frontier town that embraced civilisation

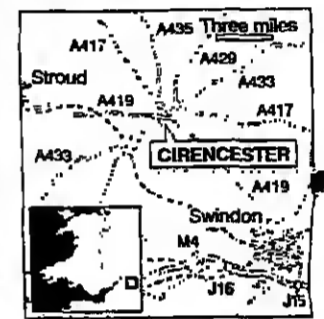
By JOHN YOUNG

CORINIUM, now Cirencester, was in its heyday one of the most important towns in Roman Britain. Its name was derived from the Celtic Caer-Coryn, the highest part of the Churn, the source of the Thames, and the full Romanised version was Corinium Dobunorum, denoting its status as the administrative centre for the Dobunni tribe.

It had probably been a sizeable settlement before the Romans arrived. Between AD 47 and 67 it was a garrison town on the Roman army's western front: the Dobunni are generally supposed to have been well disposed towards the invaders, in which case it is not clear why it was deemed necessary to station some 500 cavalry there.

After Boudicca's rebellion had been suppressed, the frontier moved westward towards Wales. The fort was dismantled and a new town laid out, which, over the next three centuries, developed into a flourishing provincial capital. Its amphitheatre housed an estimated 8,000 and was used for gladiatorial contests: traces of curved walls suggest the existence of a separate adjoining theatre. Its grassy banks, nearly 30ft high, survive.

Visitors, however, should direct their attention to the museum, with its superb display of artefacts in imaginatively reconstructed rooms.



Gourmet invader added spice to Celtic life

By ALAN HAMILTON

A VISIT to the 1st-century equivalent of a Marks & Spencer food hall in Londinium would have yielded a surprising variety of ingredients for that last-minute dinner party after an evening at the amphitheatre.

Britain's native Celts were efficient and intensive farmers of wheat, pearl barley and livestock, but their diet would have been far too bland for the Roman palate, which enjoyed the liberal inclusion of herbs and spices. The invader introduced Britain to coriander, dill, fennel, rue, oregano and bay leaf, which also served as a household air freshener when it was burnt as incense.

No Roman dish was complete without a liberal dousing of *garum*, a sauce made by marinating the rotting entrails of tunny fish in blood and salt for two months. Present-day Worces-

tershire sauce, in which anchovies and shallots reside for long periods in barrels of vinegar, is a direct descendant.

Celtic man grew apples and pears, and picked wild strawberries and raspberries. The Romans brought new varieties of apple and introduced plums, cherries, damsons and quince to the British fruit bowl. They taught the Celts about salad, using the novelties of rocket, lettuce and chicory dressed with olive oil.

Vegetables figured large in the Romano-British diet. They loved their onions, believing them to act as a hair

restorer, and they certainly ate their greens — Brussels sprouts and cabbage, which was boiled with soda in the water to keep it green and was considered a protection against hangovers. The British were introduced to other novelties on the vegetable counter: asparagus, garlic and cardoon, forerunner of the globe artichoke.

Like their modern-day descendants, who discovered continental cuisine through package holidays, the Celts were taught to flavour and sweeten their dishes by cooking with wine, or with *defrutum*, concentrated grape

juice. The British had been importing French plonk long before the Romans arrived, but it had been strictly for drinking. The Romans brought viticulture but, in a forerunner of a Brussels directive, it was not until well into the 3rd century that they allowed British vineyards to produce wine for the domestic market.

Some Roman dishes have, mercifully, disappeared from the modern British table — among them peacock rissoles and, more recently, sausages made with animal brains.

You do not come across this 1st-century recipe much, either: mince pork and dormice together, grind pepper and pine kernels together, add to meat and add fish sauce; stuff whole dormice with the meat mixture and sew them up, place on a tile and cook in the oven. You could try it in the Aga, but you might find M&S is clean out of dormice.

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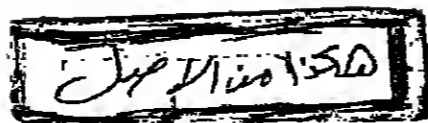
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Ecumenical action pack encourages Christians to discuss ways of damaging RAF jet

Church educationist condemns lesson in civil disobedience

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England last night called for sensitivity in handling an education kit that invites churchgoers to pretend they are protesters and to consider the consequences of getting involved in civil disobedience.

One chapter in the pack, titled *DIY Disarmament*, which challenges churchgoers to examine under what circumstances they would break the law, provoked strong criticism from Diane Murrie, the Church's children's work officer, who said it was biased and should come with a health warning.

Mrs Murrie will warn against wholeheartedly recommending the activities when she writes in a September newsletter to the 43 dioceses in England. She said: "How can you have an educational

workshop on how to smash up a tank?"

The pack is published for the ecumenical One World Week, an annual education event in October funded by the mainstream churches. The theme this year is *Living on the Edge*. Although the pack is not aimed specifically at children, the tens of thousands of churchgoers who take part in the activities will include young people.

The pack invites participants to find out about "acts of civil disobedience" in their area. It urges them to list "all of the different means" used by the Ploughshares group, whose members broke into a British Aerospace factory and damaged a Hawk jet. They were recently acquitted of unlawful damage.

Under a section headed

"Learning to Be Active Citizens", the pack says that "there are at least ten" ways to stop a Hawk and urges them to find out all they can about each method. Another section asks groups to read aloud the testimony of Joanna Wilson, a leading protester against the Indonesian regime in East Timor and one of the acquitted protesters.

Churchgoers are asked: "Have you ever had to stand up against authority of any kind - school, work, parents? Under what circumstances, if any, would you consider breaking the law of the land?"

Mrs Murrie, quoted in yesterday's *Church Times*, said: "This has really gone over the top. My view would be that we need to teach children and young people that the law is



Joanna Wilson, acquitted of damaging a Hawk jet, and an illustration from the One World Week education pack



not to be broken under any circumstances. "You can't say to them that there are circumstances to take a hammer to things."

A spokesman for the Church of England said: "The pack is intended for group leaders who will lead discussion and activity on the issues surrounding campaigning. The pack does not encourage people to break the law but encourages them to consider the issues involved in protest

and the consequences of any actions that might be taken."

Tary Alexander, author of the chapter, said: "We're trying to think about the issues. It is an adult education pack."

Dr Roger Williamson, who works for the church's board for social responsibility and is also chairman of One World Week, said that the pack was not aimed at children: "It's examining the action that the women took. No one's sug-

gesting that people go and copy it." He added: "There is a difference between acting and reality." He asked whether it would be wrong to act in a Shakespeare play "because there is murder in it".

But the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, 97, criticised the material. He said: "I don't think that children ought to be instructed in anything of a political nature. Children are not able to distinguish between right or wrong or good

and evil." Criticising the jury for acquitting the four Hawk protesters, Lord Denning said: "They should not have been let off. For all this to be repeated to young children is wrong."

British Aerospace, owners of the damaged jet, said: "This leaflet is a matter for the Church; we recognise the principle of peaceful protest."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ONLY MAKE BELIEVE

The sad, secret world of the Kennedys



Jackie Kennedy created a myth that has survived for decades. Now, at last, her secrets are out...

News Review - The Sunday Times, tomorrow

Credo

Christ's own compassion must underlie divorce rules

Gillian Crow

Many people in the secular world receive the false impression that Christianity's opposition to divorce and remarriage cannot be altered because it is firmly based on the Bible and the traditional teaching of the Church.

However much sympathy Christians may have with the victims of a failed marriage, the New Testament and tradition are presented as irrefutable.

Those who wish to face the practical realities of modern life and deal with them in a compassionate way find themselves at odds with this apparently unassailable fact. To make any changes would appear to be bowing to secular pressure to bend time-honoured rules.

It is worth reminding them that this tradition belongs not to the Christian Church as a whole but only to the Church of Rome and the Western Churches that have derived from it.

The Eastern Orthodox Church allows the remarriage of people to whom it has granted a church divorce - and this is not a new concession to today's unhappy situation but part of its holy tradition, taking its authority from Christ's teaching according to St Matthew's Gospel.

For those who were hard of heart, Moses allowed divorce. For those whose hearts were attuned to Christ's will, who were able to go beyond the bare rules and keep out only from

mordor but from the slightest anger, from every temptation to swear, from every evil thought against even their enemies, Christ beckoned them towards a more perfect ideal of marriage. Yet Christ made an exception even to His deeper interpretation of the Law in the case of adultery, the breaking of a relationship, which the Church from the early centuries saw as one of the sins, together with mordor and apostasy, that warranted automatic excommunication until the sinner repented.

Western theologians may disagree with this reading of the Gospel but they should not forget that it exists.

The Reformed Churches could do well to look at the Orthodox teaching on di-

vorice and remarriage rather than remain shackled to the Roman position.

The Orthodox Church grants a church divorce. The ideal is for people whose marriages have been ended to be given three years of spiritual retraining before remarriage can be considered. Although to practice this does not always happen, it is a safeguard against couples who might seek a second church wedding lightly, without any religious commitment.

The service for the remarriage of two divorced people replaces some of the joyful prayers with ones of a more penitential nature, acknowledging the fact that they have fallen short of the ideal.

While the intention of forming a new union is symbolised in the Orthodox ceremony by a circular procession, there are no vows of "till death us do part" - or indeed any vows at all. After the exchange of rings during the betrothal, the first part of the service, bride and groom come into the centre of the nave to be crowned.

The mystery of love between two people is not something that can be reduced to a judicial formula.

Nor is the failure of a marriage seen in legalistic terms as a breaking of promises, posing the invidious problem of what to do when people wish to make the same oaths a second time.

The very unfamiliar nature of an Orthodox wedding epitomises different insights and attitudes into marriage - attitudes which have just as long a Christian pedigree as those of the West. They could therefore provide valid answers to churches facing pressure for change from

both inside and outside, because they offer not a compromise with the secular view of marriage but a fresh understanding of the Christian ideal.

They have as their root neither a defensive legalism nor modern adjustment but a deep and genuinely Christian compassion.

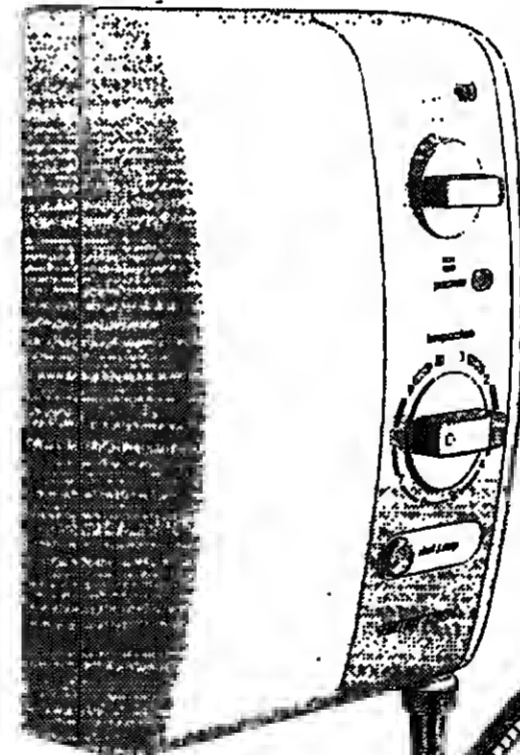
Gillian Crow is diocesan secretary of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain

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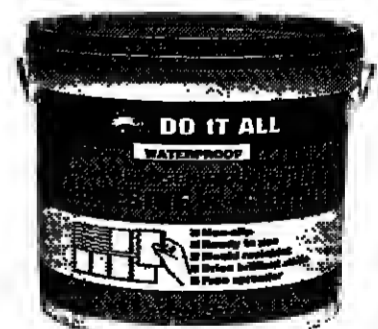
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Dole oratory stirs hope in despondent party

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN SAN DIEGO



REPUBLICANS left San Diego yesterday pumped up by a successful convention that reached a tumultuous climax on Thursday night with one of Bob Dole's most forceful and combative speeches.

The delegates, who had arrived a week earlier in near despair, went home believing victory in November was possible and with most polls showing a substantial erosion of President Clinton's once-daunting lead. "We're thrilled with where we are," said John Buckley, Mr Dole's communications director, after a Gallup poll suggested that Mr Clinton's lead had halved from 22 points to 11.

Mr Dole received a big boost from his selection of Jack Kemp as running-mate last weekend, but the convention also significantly softened the party's intolerant and extremist image.

The organisers ruthlessly excluded from the limelight hardline conservatives like Pat Buchanan, suppressed debate on such divisive issues as abortion, and forbade men-

tion of Newt Gingrich's deeply unpopular Congress. They instead dispatched a string of women, blacks and reassuringly mainstream figures such as General Colin Powell to the podium to woo back millions of moderate voters.

There were no surprises, and no debate of real substance, but this was without doubt the slickest, best-packaged political convention America has yet seen.

Mr Dole and Mr Kemp will exploit their new momentum by spending the weekend campaigning together in Colorado, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania. After his formal nomination Mr Dole's penniless campaign also became eligible for \$62 million (£40 million) in federal funds, and

it will immediately launch a major advertising campaign in battleground states.

However, Mr Dole's chances of defeating Mr Clinton remain slim. The challenger remains a weak campaigner, and Republicans privately shudder over what the silver-tongued President could do to him in this autumn's debates. Mr Dole is also gambling on his promise of massive tax cuts when the economy is purring and voters may be reluctant to risk such a radical move.

Mr Dole's hour-long acceptance speech was the most important of his life and most commentators agreed that this notoriously poor orator rose to the occasion.

Turning his age to his advantage, Mr Dole portrayed himself as a repository of the vanishing values — "God, family, honour, duty, country" — that made America great. "Let me be a bridge to a time of tranquillity, faith and confidence in action. To those who say it was never so, that America has not been better, I say you're wrong, and I know because I was there. I have seen it. I remember."

He painted a picture of an America laid low by crime, drugs, illegitimacy, abortion and collapsing families, and implicitly blamed the Clintons' self-indulgent baby-boomer generation. "I am here to tell you that permissive and destructive behaviour must be opposed, that honour and liberty must be restored, and that individual liberty must replace collective excuse."

He accused the Clinton Administration of ignoring America's moral health in its blind pursuit of material gain, and made a libertarian case for the massive tax cuts he has proposed.

"It is demeaning to the nation that within the Clinton Administration a corps of the elite who never grew up, never did anything real, never sacrificed, never suffered and never learnt should have the power to fund with your earnings their dubious and self-serving schemes."

The convention erupted when he finished. Mr Dole was joined on stage by his family, the entire Kemp family, all his primary rivals and a host of other prominent Republicans.



Bob and Elizabeth Dole wave at cheering convention delegates after his acceptance speech in San Diego

Oven gloves are off as wives bake for victory

SAN DIEGO
NOTEBOOK

Now the Republican convention is over the real battle begins. I refer not to the contest between Bob Dole and President Clinton, but to that between their wives.

On Wednesday night Elizabeth Dole enthralled millions of television viewers with her daring, Oprah Winfrey-style broadcast from the convention floor.

Within 24 hours the White House let it be known that Hillary Clinton had picked up the gauntlet and would be doing a number of her own at the Democrats' Chicago convention. Exactly how she intends to top Mrs Dole's tour de force is not yet clear, but perform she will.

Family Circle magazine has, meanwhile, announced its second quadrennial "cookie bake-off" between the candidates' wives, started after Mrs Clinton snapped at a reporter ques-

tioning her conduct as a lawyer: "I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies."

This year Mrs Clinton is sticking with a winner, challenging Mrs Dole's pecan roll cookies with the same chocolate chip cookie recipe that won 55 per cent of the readers' votes last year to beat Barbara Bush's recipe.

The Dole campaign reached San Diego in truly desperate financial straits. It had spent almost all the legal limit of \$30 million (£19.3 million) by the time the primary season finished last March. But from the moment Mr Dole was formally nominated at 9.08pm on Wednesday he became eligible for

another \$62 million in federal funds, and he could not get the money fast enough.

A female aide carrying a signed letter from Mr Dole and his running-mate, Jack Kemp, rushed to San Diego's airport to catch a 9.30pm plane to Baltimore.

She landed soon after dawn and handed the letter to a Dole campaign accountant who drove it straight down to the Washington office of the Federal Election Commission, arriving just after 9am. Commission officials, alerted in advance, sped the letter round all five of its members for approval. It was then driven at high speed to a Treasury department office in Maryland which had the cash transferred by wire from another office in Philadelphia.

Long before Mr Dole stood up to deliver his acceptance speech on Thursday evening he had \$61,820,000

sitting in his bank account. This weekend his campaign will unleash its first barrage of long-overdue commercials attacking Mr Clinton.

Jack Kemp had grown so disillusioned over recent months with his party's stridency and intolerance that he had considered not attending this week's convention. That was, of course, before Mr Dole stunned everyone last weekend by making him his running-mate.

Mr Kemp had, however, accepted an invitation to appear at the Democratic convention and intends to keep his word. On August 27, a day before Mr Clinton is formally renominated, the Republican vice-presidential candidate will appear with Bill Bradley, a Democratic Senator, at a seminar on race relations.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Clinton feigns indifference as rival seizes the limelight

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

AS FAR as the American public is concerned President Clinton has spent a peaceful week hawking in the picturesque shadow of the Grand Tetons, a world away from the Republican circus in San Diego.

He has played golf, meandered through Yellowstone National Park, ridden horses with his daughter Chelsea and acted as an armchair astronomer during a meteorite shower at the 800-acre estate owned by Max Chapman, the wealthy New York financier.

Unlike last year's presidential visit to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this pre-electoral

holiday has been deliberately private. Mr Clinton has responded with studied diffidence to daily questions about the Republican national convention and the growing stature of Bob Dole.

"He has not watched any of the convention coverage," said Mary Ellen Glynn, the deputy White House spokeswoman travelling with the Clinton party in Wyoming. "He may have caught some of the news clips but that's all."

The air of regal detachment, however, belies the reality of the past week. Doug Sosnik, the senior White House aide camped in a local motel, has analysed the minutiae of every Republican speech and briefed the President daily.

In addition, Mr Clinton has taken regular telephone calls from Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and George Stephanopoulos, the senior political adviser, who were sent to San Diego. Ms Glynn has been feeding her boss reams of newspaper clippings while Bruce Lindsey, the Deputy White House counsel, has been helping the President to prepare for the Democratic convention in Chicago in nine days' time.

Even the decision to come to Jackson Hole had a political subtext. Some advisers had suggested a holiday in Martha's Vineyard but the Massachusetts resort was deemed too elitist.

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India in despair years o

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India looks back in despair at 50 years of self-rule

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA entered its fiftieth year of independence from Britain yesterday with an outpouring of brutal self-analysis and an exceptional series of attacks on the crumbling political order.

"It is difficult to discern clarity or sanity in Indian politics," *The Hindustan Times* said. Churchill was being proved right as men of straw took the country by the throat, declared *The Statesman*. "The history of independent India is pockmarked with compromises and failures," *Calcutta's Telegraph* raged.

Few countries are as self-critical as India. *The Indian Express* noted that for half a century Indians had flagellated themselves with the message that "we have failed to meet our trust with destiny; we are a disappointment". It described this phenomenon as "collective despair".

"Yesterday's newspapers offered no respite. They railed against high-level corruption, which newspaper editorial writers all agree has never been so brazen nor carried so little stigma. But the press generally agreed that the country would survive its 'venal' politicians. 'We shall overcome,' *The Statesman* insisted.

It reproduced the front page of its August 15, 1947 issue, the tone of which was far removed from this week's assessments of the nation's rulers. "Pledge of service and dedication — day of rejoicing in India," the headline said, and quoted

Moujibbaten as saying: "This is a parting between friends." The paper had something nice to say about Pakistan, which would never happen now. Scenes of splendour in Karachi," it declared.

Disgust with politicians has never run deeper. "Corruption and criminality have become the hallmark of ruling politicians," *The Hindustan Times* said in an editorial headlined "Message of hope". The "hope" arose from the destruction of the Congress Party's domination of Indian politics since independence and the shift to an era of coalitions. This transition had demonstrated the strength of Indian democracy.

The Times of India noted the contrast between H.D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister, and Jawaharlal

Nehru, who delivered the first Independence Day speech 49 years ago — one a south Indian, non-Brahmin who came from the grassroots, the other a Harrow and Cambridge-educated Kashmiri Brahmin from an aristocratic north Indian family.

The Statesman ventured that the decline in political standards, now in "free fall", began with Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi. It called politicians "venal, corrupt, greedy as well as incompetent, a dreadful combination". The Nehru-Gandhi family had started the rise of Hindu fundamentalism, the pandering to caste instead of overcoming it, the appalling corruption and the refusal of the state to enforce the law. And yet, it noted, the nation survived.

The Indian Express observed that people were not ashamed of India. "Their exasperation is directed at the public face of India. India thirsts for achievement and success. What it sees on August 15 epitomises the precise opposite."

Raid on homes: India's federal police agency raided two homes of Sukh Ram, a former Communications Minister, yesterday and seized 30 million rupees (£542,000) in cash. Mr Ram, who was in former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Government, was responsible for privatisation of India's telecommunications. (Reuters)



Nehru: his "tryst with destiny" unrealised



Sabine Dardenne, 12, hugs her mother after she and Laetitia Delhez, 14, were freed from a house in Belgium

Abducted girls freed from tiny cell

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE discovery of two frightened schoolgirls incarcerated in a tiny, sound-proof cubbyhole in a basement at a house in southern Belgium is believed to have brought to an end a child-sex ring linked to the disappearance of up to 15 children. A nationwide search for one of the girls, Laetitia Delhez, 14, who had been missing for a few days, led the police late on Thursday to what they believe is the heart of a paedophile ring and to the discovery of the second child, Sabine Dardenne, 12, who had been missing for three months and almost given up for dead.

Four people were under arrest in Cherleroi yesterday amid hopes that the series of kidnappings has come to an end. Fourteen girls and one boy have disappeared in Belgium in the past six years, of whom five have been found murdered and eight are missing.

The police were led to the two girls' sound-proof prison by two men and a woman who were detained on Tuesday. The police had searched the house on Tuesday but failed to find the girls.

The girls were reunited with their parents and were being counselled yesterday. Cheering crowds filled streets outside their homes to welcome them back.

"They were found in a space 2ft by 3ft and we do not yet know what happened while they were kidnapped," the police said. Their discovery came after Belgium was flooded with television and press appeals for help in a campaign largely organised by a parents' action group set up after two children unconnected with the paedophile case were shot dead by gangsters.

Laetitia Delhez disappeared a week ago during a short walk from a swimming pool to her home. Witnesses reported a van in the area and remembered part of the licence number. That, and a poster campaign, led to three arrests on Tuesday and a fourth yesterday.

WORLD SUMMARY

Mugabe marries in tent city

Harare: President Mugabe, 72, and his former secretary, Grace Marufu, 31, will exchange Catholic marriage vows in Zimbabwe today (Jan Raath writes). The couple, who have two children, have already undergone a tribal ceremony.

A city of tents has been erected at Mr Mugabe's rural home at Zimba, about 50 miles west of Harare. In addition to the 6,000 invitations, the entire population of the farming area where he was born have been invited. President Mandela and Grace Machel, the widow of Samor Machel, the former Mozambique president, will also attend.

65-stone man is hoisted from flat

New York: Firemen had to knock down walls, widen doors and take out banisters and to winch David High, who weighs about 65 stone, out of the third-floor Brooklyn flat he had not left for five years (James Bone writes). Mr High, 42, was treated in hospital for kidney failure. During a 20-man rescue that took six hours, he was winched down on a wooden platform and squeezed into a large van.

Food poisoning toll rises to 10

Tokyo: Japan's food poisoning outbreak claimed its tenth victim — a schoolgirl aged 12 — with health authorities no closer to halting the deadly O157 strain of the bacterium *Escherichia coli*. She died at Osaka University's medical centre in Sakai, a suburb of Osaka. Her death occurred as many other children were leaving hospital after treatment. (AFP)

Oh, Calcutta

Calcutta: The hand-pulled rickshaw, venerable symbol of this teeming city, is to be banned from clogged streets, together with hand-pulled carts, to improve the average speed of vehicles. (Reuters)

UN tribunal accuses Rwanda colonel of planning genocide

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE "evil genius" alleged to be behind the Rwandan genocide and his propaganda chief were yesterday indicted by the United Nations for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Colonel Theoneste Bagasora, the former "chef de cabinet" in the Rwandan Defence Ministry who is being held in detention in Cameroon, was described by Rakiya Omar, co-director of African Rights, as the "top of the pyramid" in the systematic slaughter of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in 1994.

Ms Omar, who has conducted comprehensive investigations into the mass killings, claimed the colonel, a Hutu, had been responsible for planning Rwanda's final solution to its "Tutsi problem". He was instantly notorious for staging cruelty. He has been

accused of being behind the murder of Hutu opposition figures who might stand in the way of his plans for mass slaughter, and of ten Belgian paratroopers.

Among the first to die, after President Habyarimana's plane was mysteriously shot down on April 6, 1994, was the Hutu Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana. She was torn from the crotch to her throat with a bayonette.

According to a Ghanaian officer who saw the killings of the Belgian soldiers, who were acting as the Prime Minister's escort, Colonel Bagasora ordered that their limbs be broken with iron bars. Then he had them castrated.

When confronted by *The Times* and asked to explain the mass killings that marked the road south of Gitarama with

bodies every three yards, for 20 miles, he smiled. "There have been incidents of poor discipline in the army and especially the militia. But this is war."

The second man indicted, Andre Ntagerura, was a founding director of Radio Television Libre de Milles Collines, the extremist radio station which, before April, had warned Hutu peasants that all Tutsis were planning a genocide of Hutus.

The men are expected to face the UN's genocide tribunal, which does not allow capital punishment for those convicted, in Arusha, Tanzania, later this year. Rwandan officials yesterday made clear they want to try Colonel Bagasora and his accomplices under their legal system "and shoot them".

Riot police storm Seoul university

Seoul: South Korean police stormed a Seoul university yesterday for the third consecutive day to arrest 3,600 students demonstrating for reunification with communist North Korea, a police spokesman said.

Police failed to make the students at Yonsei University surrender, however, and pulled back from the campus several hours later. Shortly before night fell, several helicopters fired teargas and police in riot gear began chasing fleeing students.

Lee Joog Ok, a spokesman, said about 15,000 police officers had been deployed in and around Yonsei to arrest the radicals. Police said a student telephoned the Seoul police headquarters to say they would set off gas explosions if police forced their way into the buildings. (Reuters)

Mid-air feat saves crippled plane

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A passenger was dangled out of a light aircraft by his legs during flight so he could unlock the wheels, which had been jammed by a hydraulic fault.

Brian Howson was hung over the side by three fellow passengers when their Cessna Centurion developed a fault shortly after taking off from Port Hedland, in Western Australia. The plane circled

for some time to lose fuel, but eventually Mr Howson, 51, managed to pull the two main wheels of the single-engine plane back into place.

He described the drama as extremely frightening, but added: "It was something I had to do." Mr Howson said he was given the dangerous task because he just happened to be sitting in the right seat, but he had complete faith in those who held on to his legs. "I told them I wanted to borrow some money off them

before I went out so they wouldn't let me go," he said.

The plane's owner, Clark Butson, said: "It was a great effort to get a successful result and I can't praise the passengers enough. They were gutsy — Mr Howson is a true hero." One of the other passengers, Mark Sutton from Perth, said there had been a positive mood aboard the plane throughout the ordeal. "We thought the worst that would happen would be a belly landing," he said.

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Italian wasp puts sting in 50-year tale of love

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

IT WEAVES nippily in front of you in traffic jams, and wakes you up in the early hours with its tinny roar. Generations of Italians have conducted love affairs on it, done business on it and (in the case of a delinquent minority) snatched handbags and hats from it.

Next month lovers of the Vespa — it means wasp — are gathering to celebrate 50 years of a vehicle that gave millions of Italians freedom and mobility in the post-Second World War years — and still keeps their country on the move.

The Vespa was the brainchild of Corradino D'Ascanio, an aeronautical engineer who designed an award-winning Fiat-engined helicopter in the 1930s, the DAT 3. After the war he joined forces with Enrico Piaggio, the motor manufacturer, to produce a vehicle for the common man: not a motorbike, which D'Ascanio despised as dirty, inelegant and too big, but a motor scooter. The first rolled off the production line at Pontedera in Tuscany in 1946,



The Sportique, a 150cc British-built Vespa

with a delighted Signor Piaggio exclaiming: "It's like a wasp!"

As the Vespa's fame grew, *The Times* defined it as "a decisively Italian mode of transport, which seems destined to conquer all continents." It was affordable, ridiculously easy to park, and economic to run. You hopped on, turned the key and went.

But, above all, it was sexy. "What was intended as a vehicle for married couples became an instrument of conquest for teenage boys," the magazine *Oggi* said this week. "The Vespa gave us Italians our first taste of erotic

freedom. Young couples headed in droves for the mountains and woods. Millions of kisses have been exchanged on the back of a Vespa." Middle-aged males speak of them with an affectionate smile, half sentimental, half lascivious.

At first women rode side saddle as Audrey Hepburn does in the 1953 film *Roman Holiday*, clinging precariously to Gregory Peck as he shows her round Rome. But as the 1960s arrived, they moved from arms wrapped round the man in front to taking control themselves, riding in the short skirts that are still a dangerously distracting hazard in Italian city traffic.

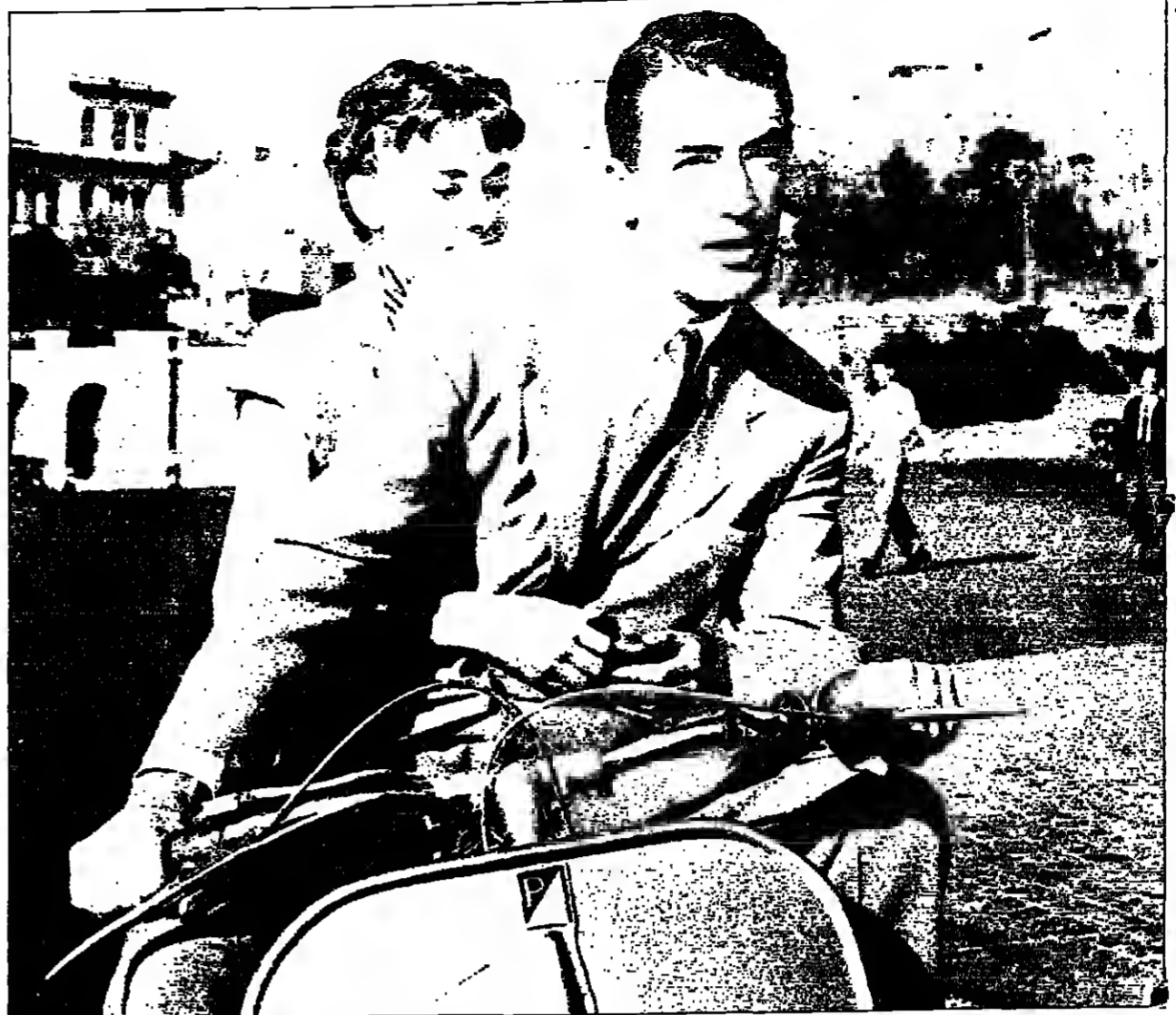
In *Roman Holiday*, Hepburn, playing an incognito princess, careers off pursued by police, a look of sheer exhilaration on her face as she casts duty and discipline aside.

The Vespa (and its great rival, the Lambretta) appears as a symbol of liberation in Italian films from Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* (where a Vespa is used by the VIP-chasing photographer Paparazzo — the origin of the term paparazzi) to Nanni Moretti's *Coro Diario*

in 1994, which depicts Moretti exploring some less well-known aspects of Rome on his Vespa on a meandering Sunday afternoon.

In the 1960s Vespas and Lambrettas crossed to Britain to become the de rigueur mode of transport for neat, short-haired "mods" in their battles on Brighton seafront with greasy-haired, leather-clad "rockers", who preferred motorbikes. The scooter spawned imitators all over the world, from South Africa to Russia, but saw off Japanese competition. It acquired sleeker lines, came in more daring colours and is displayed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York as a prime example of Italian design.

Fifteen million Vespas, in a variety of models, have rolled off the production lines since 1946. The Piaggio factory is not resting on its laurels, however; it plans to use next month's celebrations to launch a new version with a design which, it says, will hark back to D'Ascanio's original — the Vespa 125.



Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck go sightseeing in Rome on a Vespa in the film *Roman Holiday*

Why commute? Car 96

Britain accused of Hong Kong pact with Peking

HONG KONG'S most popular politician, Martin Lee, QC, says he believes Britain and China have "kissed and made up" and that London has told Peking "not to take him [Governor Chris Patten] seriously".

Mr Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, said in an interview: "There may not be an agreement as such but I believe there must be some such understanding." With less than 11 months to go before Britain gives up what one Hong Kong resident calls the "last jewel in a tarnished crown", on June 30, next year, the British Government's stock here is low. Mr Patten has been vilified by many businessmen for "upsetting China" by encouraging democracy, though he still scores high marks in local popularity polls. Moreover, there is a general feeling of being let down by Britain regarding citizenship and right of abode for 3.3 million British subjects in the colony of 6.3 million people.

A British official admitted: "There is an unjustified feeling

of British betrayal by Hong Kong's chattering classes." There is also an ambivalent attitude towards Britain's overall record in the waning days of 150 years of colonial rule. While some of Hong Kong's middle classes say they feel indifferent about their soon-to-depart colonial master, and others are "disappointed", some influential citizens believe Britain's role has been beneficial. Many upper-class Chinese parents still want to send their male offspring to British schools rather than to the United States or Canada.

On the political front, Mr Lee and other politicians believe the British Government would prefer the colony's democratically elected leaders to deal directly with China. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, may have suggested as much last week-end when he said that people with different views should be nominated to the selection committee due to pick a future chief executive and appoint a "provisional legislature".

"I think the British want to wash their hands of the problem," said Lee, whose party won most votes to the legislature last year. "If things go

Colony's leading democrat says London has told China not to take Chris Patten seriously, writes James Pringle

wrong, they can say: 'Well, it is just China, nothing to do with us.' He added: "Britain and China have kissed and made up on the basis of Britain telling Peking that this fellow [Mr Patten] will continue to say annoying things but just ignore him because we are not going to take him seriously."

On Britain's overall record, David Tang, a flamboyant entrepreneur and socialite, said it was "nonsensical" to say the British did not make any contribution to Hong Kong. "If there is a shining example of colonialism, it is Hong Kong," he said, puffing on a Havana. "Even patriotic Chinese in Hong Kong must admit privately, they have

been able to make a lot of money, and if someone sues them they can go to a court of law and fight it out under a fair system of justice."

Yet with the handover approaching there is a strong feeling that Britain has now lost the capacity to influence events. China has made it clear it will dismantle the elected legislature that Mr Patten introduced.

Some British officials, too, agree with the view that Britain no longer matters. "We are very much yesterday's people here," said a senior expatriate civil servant. "I think we are increasingly irrelevant."

Despite the pessimism, British officials feel that most matters leading up to the handover can be settled. One official said: "I am not too disheartened about the prospect of completing most of our agenda."

Yet this is an agenda that apparently does not include the continuation of the elected legislature beyond June 30. But British officials insist that when Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, meets Mr Qian at the United Nations in the autumn, he will be pushing to retain it.

On the vexed question of China's "provisional legislature", Mr Lee said: "This would be the most terrible thing for Hong Kong's future. In a Peking-appointed legislature, accountability is to Peking, not to the people of Hong Kong as was guaranteed in Sino-British agreements."

Overall, many Hong Kong Chinese, who are not enamoured of the Communists, seem to feel a certain pride in becoming part of the motherland again, but there is also an awareness that Britain has instilled values of the rule of law besides *laissez-faire* capitalism. There is even a sense of bowing to the inevitable, and of getting the handover over with.

Civil servants to fight ban

Hong Kong: Senior Hong Kong civil servants yesterday began a legal challenge against a government ban preventing them from joining the 400-strong Chinese panel to select the colony's post-1997 leaders. The month-long nomination period began on Thursday and about 36,000 people cannot apply. (Reuters)



Patten: has annoyed leaders in Peking



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Lebed tries to force rival's resignation over Chechen war

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Russian security chief, appeared last night to have forced the resignation of his rival Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, after another visit to the war zone in Chechnia.

General Lebed, who has taken on wide new powers to deal with the crisis, raised the stakes in his confrontation with those he said wanted to carry on the "madness" of war in Chechnia when he threatened to resign unless the Interior Minister stepped down. "I am appealing to President Yeltsin and he has to make a difficult choice," General Lebed said. "Only one man must stay — Lebed or Kulikov."

General Lebed accused General Kulikov of having a "Napoleon complex" and of harbouring plans to let the war spread to other parts of the North Caucasus. The Interior Minister rejected the

charges and issued a statement saying that he was "sending a report to the president of the country asking him to resolve the issue of my tenure of office".

There has been something more than a little Napoleonic in the past week about General Lebed. After the military debacle in Grozny last week, when the rebels took the city, he has taken on sweeping powers as President Yeltsin's special envoy to the break-away republic. On two visits to Chechnia within a week, he publicly berated everyone associated with Moscow's failed policies there.

General Lebed met Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the rebel leader, for four hours on Thursday night in southern Chechnia to talk over a new peace plan. They agreed to set up an independent commission to monitor ceasefire violations and decided to postpone discussion of the most trouble-

some issue, the political status of Chechnia, until the military situation was resolved. The general announced his "radical plan" to end the 20-month-old conflict yesterday. Although he did not spell out the details, it seems that, as in Afghanistan, its main provisions would be a near total withdrawal of Russian forces, a new interim government, and a total shutdown of all financing for the republic.

While he has started talking with respect of the separatists, General Lebed's comments about General Kulikov were pure vitriol.

"General Anatoli Kulikov is one of the main culprits in the tragedy in Chechnia," he said. The minister had tried to impede his movements there and had been planning "provocations" in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia that would lead to a "great Caucasian war", he said.

General Kulikov, whose



Aleksandr Lebed, flanked by Russian commanders, talks to residents in Khankala, outside Grozny, during his second visit in a week

forces have had the lion's share of action in Chechnia, retorted that his rival had a "maniacal longing for power and inadequate understanding of the problems of Chechnia". He said he had tried to argue with the national security adviser on Tuesday, only to be answered with "vulgarity and obscenities".

The spat has more to do with Moscow power politics than Chechnia. General Kulikov was not one of the initiators of the Chechen war

and was generally respected by the Chechen side when he took part in peace negotiations last summer. The nastiness of the fight will embarrass Mr Yeltsin, but as long as the dispute does not spread beyond the general's sphere of

influence — security matters and Chechnia — he will probably not be too worried. There was still a stalemate in Grozny yesterday. Shamil Basayev, the guerrilla leader who led the attack on Grozny, suggested he might cause

problems for his leadership by refusing to pull out. General Lebed said yesterday that 247 soldiers had been killed and more than 1,000 wounded since last week; 90 per cent of the 142 missing servicemen were almost certainly dead.

Grozny's rebels bring shattered capital back to life

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN GROZNY

THE young Russian prisoners stood in silence, shifting uneasily from foot to foot, their grimy faces expressing a mixture of fear and anticipation at the first visitors they had received since being captured by Chechen separatists. "No talking," barked Sultan, their jailer, in a clear threat aimed at us and his unfortunate inmates that the meeting was to be limited to eye contact only.

The men, whose ages ranged from 17 to 30, did not appear to have been mistreated, although one gaunt figure had his left arm in a sling, an injury probably suffered during his capture. Despite the silence, their faces spoke volumes. They knew that their war was over and the very fact that the Chechens were willing to parade them before foreign journalists was a good omen that their lives would be spared. A few miles away the same emotions were displayed by a different set of Russian troops manning a checkpoint on an approach road to Grozny. They felt just as trapped by the war as their luckless colleagues in the makeshift Chechen prison.

"Quite honestly, I do not know what we are doing here," Lieutenant Mikhail Bogachenko, the commander of the post, said. His unit of cheery-faced boys were all drawn from the same mining town in western Siberia.

"We should not have anything to do with the Chechens, let them run their own affairs," said the officer, whose peaceful intentions were underscored by a wild flower stuck inside his rifle barrel. "For too long this war has

been dictated from Moscow. The people there have no idea what the situation is like on the ground."

His words summed up Moscow's inability to understand what is happening in the Chechen capital, where the ceasefire has enabled the separatists to consolidate their hold.

Rebel positions are already issuing passes to residents and slowly beginning to get the city they helped destroy back on its feet. Shamil Basayev, the Chechen guerrilla chief who led the lightning raid that retook Grozny, is hailed as a hero as he drives

unopposed in the streets in his easily recognisable staff car, a converted bank security van.

Yesterday, we travelled on the back of a rebel lorry delivering food and fuel, not as we had anticipated to the fighters, but to elderly residents. It was an astonishing feat of organisation in a city where there is no electricity and where most bridges are destroyed.

The semblance of peace, which means sporadic fighting, does not negate the fear that this city is heading for a new round of bloodshed.

The encouraging noises emerging from the latest peace efforts of General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin's main troubleshooter on Chechnia, have made little impact on the fighters. "Lebed is just like all the rest," Alek Tsagayev, a fighter manning a main rebel checkpoint, said. "There is only one certainty here. There will never be peace as long as a single Russian soldier remains here. It is either them or us."

Cyprus stays calm for second funeral

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the highly charged and emotional funeral in Cyprus last night of a second Greek Cypriot man killed in protests against the Turkish occupation of the north of the island.

The ceremony passed without incident, raising hopes that calm would soon return to the island after the bloodiest clashes since Turkey's military intervention 22 years ago.

Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, flies to Cyprus today for urgent talks with Greek Cypriot political leaders that are aimed at defusing tensions.

Unarmed United Nations peacekeepers, including 388 British soldiers, were on high alert for the funeral of Solomos Solomou, 26, shot dead by Turkish troops on Wednesday.

President Glafcos Clerides, who led the mourners at the state-funded funeral on Wednesday of the first Greek Cypriot protester to die this week, did not attend.

Earlier, the Cyprus Government called for "cool-headed-

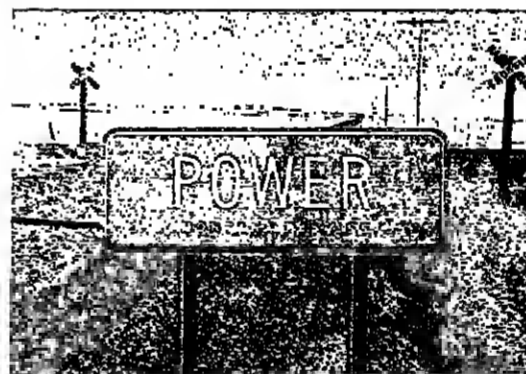
ness and self-restraint" while Greek Cypriot police indicated they would take a more robust approach to prevent protesters reaching UN lines, by digging trenches and rolling out barbed wire along the flash-point in the eastern frontier town of Dherenia.

As temperatures soared into the 90s, hundreds of police, many in riot gear and armed with teargas and batons, formed a human chain along part of the buffer zone.

Mr Solomou was killed when he tried to tear down a Turkish flag. A post-mortem examination yesterday revealed he had been hit by five bullets fired from two guns. His cousin, Tassos Isaac, was beaten to death by a group from the Turkish-held side near the same spot on Sunday.

Diplomats in Nicosia said the possibility that similar clashes could spiral out of control, and even trigger a wider conflict between the feuding Nato allies, Greece and Turkey, would galvanise the international community into working even harder for a Cyprus settlement.

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Provincial leader with a flair for strategy leads German charge against Brussels bureaucracy

Saxon 'king' irks Kohl

UNLIKE the sabre-rattling Prussians, Saxon kings preferred to build palaces rather than mobilise armies, and to spawn children rather than wars. Dresden's baroque beauty — the bits that survived the Allied bombing — testify to this talent. It is said that August the Strong sired more than 360 children which, if true, suggests that every Saxon has a drop of blue blood.

It was natural then, for the Saxons to dub their Prime Minister, Kurt Biedenkopf, King Kurt. His absolute majority in Saxony gives him a rare authority in

DRESDEN FILE

by ROGER BOYES



Germany, where most provincial leaders struggle with uncomfortable coalitions. There is nothing very regal about the mien of King Kurt, but that is the point about Saxon kings: they are benign bank managers on horseback.

Short, a little tubby with a moon-shaped intelligent face, his looks are true to his biography: an ambitious law professor, former

vice-chancellor of a West German university, a man who personally winds up his large collection of clocks and who is happiest in command of his elaborate model railway. But two features have given him real political substance. First, he is leading the German charge against Brussels, or at least against Europe's bureaucratic centralism. Second, he was for a long time the most plausible rival to Helmut Kohl as leader of Germany.

At the age of 66, he is no longer viewed as a threat. Yet the professor has retained a remarkable authority in the country and his party's plotters for the future leadership of the Christian Democratic Party do well to consult King Kurt. He can think conceptually and strategically. The Chancellor's office, by contrast, confuses strategy with scheduling. Somehow, anyhow, the Kohl team has to squeeze in European monetary union, overhaul the social welfare and taxation systems, move the political capital to Berlin and win a general election in the next three years. The grand vision of Kohl's Europe is being



Kurt Biedenkopf, right, the leader of Saxony, at a news conference with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor

scaled down accordingly. But King Kurt does not like Europe intervening in domestic subsidies and could just derail King Kohl, even if he cannot seize the throne in Bonn. Herr Kohl's irritation with him is obvious. Professor Biedenkopf promised

Volkswagen about £65 million in subsidies to encourage it to build up — or rather re-establish — a car industry in Saxony. The original arrangement was reached in 1991 and as far as the Saxon leader was concerned, such special subsidies for east German industry were

provided for within the Maastricht treaty. "Saxony would never have allowed Maastricht to be ratified if it had not been for that clause," says Professor Biedenkopf. "It is completely unthinkable for me that Brussels should decide how east Germany is to be rebuilt."

Eating enough for two

NEWS reaches us from Austria about Helmut Kohl's remarkable metabolism. The Easter crash diet — nothing but mineral water and dry bread for a week — is a distant memory.

The German leader entered his favourite pastry house in St Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang and found all four tables occupied. Seeing his thunder-struck expression, the customers fled. "The lady on the last table sat paralysed — she looked so pale that we had to give her a brandy on the house," says Wolfgang Mayerhofer, a pastry chef.

There are reports of mountainous feasts of roast pork and Benedictine monks have been plying the German leader with home-brewed liqueur. Yet somehow, he chugs on, swimming more than a mile a day and going on a fast 15-mile hike through the mountains. German cynics wonder whether there are two Helmut Kohls: one to eat and one to run the country.

'Ring' faces close encounter

SAXONS are proud of their native sons, including Nietzsche, Martin Luther and the inventor of the Wild West cowboy and Indian sagas, Karl May. But the Saxon who has probably most sway on contemporary culture is Richard Wagner. He is not, however, afforded the kind of reverence he receives in Bayreuth.

The latest scheme of Dresden-born Udo Zimmermann, composer and director of the Leipzig Opera, is to persuade Steven Spielberg to direct the Ring cycle in Saxony. *ET on the Rhine? Raiders of the Lost Rhinegold?* Zimmermann swears he is not joking. "The idea of bringing the Wagner myth together with the antic spirit of Spielberg has a certain charm, don't you think?" he asks impishly.

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Archaeologists pry open grim legacy of Gestapo HQ

By ROGER BOYES

IN A steady drizzle archaeologists this week began to excavate Germany's most controversial and notorious site: the overgrown ruin of the Gestapo headquarters in the heart of Berlin.

So far only a steel helmet, a bayonet and a fragment of a British bomb have been unearthed but archaeologists are hoping for insights into the workings of Hitler's secret police.

Since the Second World War the sprawling complex has been an embarrassment. The Gestapo moved into No 5 Prinz Albrecht Street — a former art school — in May 1933. A year later Heinrich Himmler, the SS Reichsführer, set up his office there. Nearby, in Wilhelmstrasse, the SS's security service created a headquarters and the complex became the bureaucratic hub of the SS.

Countless prisoners were tortured and beaten in the cellars. The technical details for the genocide of Jews and Gypsies were planned upstairs. Thousands of dossiers contained the observations of a nationwide network of informers. Adolf Eichmann, later executed by the Israelis, began his career in the street. Some 1,500 officials worked at the HQ: there were can-

teens, a barber shop, a cigarette kiosk and a flower shop. In the last month of the war, hit by bombs and reflecting the spreading chaos of the Third Reich, the intricately organised hive fell apart.

In the grounds Concentration Camp prisoners cleared away part of the bomb damage. On the night of April 23, 1945, the Gestapo shot a final batch of prisoners near the main office block. When the Soviet Army moved in on May 2, only six prisoners remained. The following winter Germans cut down the trees to heat stoves and by the 1950s the Russians decided to blow it all up. Prinz Albrecht Street, hard against the Berlin Wall, became part of no man's land.

The archaeologists' work is the first attempt to come to terms with land many regard as cursed. While the surrounding area was bought up by international companies after German unification, the HQ was untouched.

It was decided to build a museum, but the exploration will take place before the foundations are started. But, as more information becomes available, the dilemmas increase. How much of the Gestapo administration should be reconstructed? When should the digging stop?

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Handwritten signature: J. P. 1550



OPINION With modern technology, how long before anybody can play Iago to Olivier's Othello?



EDINBURGH Clare Coulter has to carry the world's woes on her shoulders in Wallace Shawn's polemical Fever

THE TIMES ARTS



EDINBURGH Pretentious, nous? Nederlands Dans Theater is tripped up by some high-flown choreography



MUSIC Colin Matthews provides a late-night musical tease at the Nash Ensemble's Prom

It sounds like the plot of one of those sci-fi B-movies where people shout things like "Commander, we have a problem; the Zwoorbniks have vaporised the retro-blasters!"

Darling, you were virtually wonderful

It is reported that a producer has embarked on "the first ever film to involve fully computer-generated actors".

There were apparently three big problems about creating credible "synthesians": simulating the floppiness of human hair.



RICHARD MORRISON

Screen Actors Guild is holding a seminar in Los Angeles this very weekend to discuss the matter.

translated into English, roughly means "give us the doosh anyway". They cannot be serious.

move and respond to new crises. Consider, too, the interactive potential. What if you could scan your own voice and "intricate facial expressions"?

dead father; and for the present-day Beatles to produce a "new" song with the late John Lennon.

Hopping from guilt to giggles

Benedict Nightingale finds a Marxist monologue less than convincing, a potted Bible only mildly amusing

The American dramatist Wallace Shawn suffers from something far more severe than liberal guilt.



asks us to believe that she is in a hotel in some Third World outback where poverty is endemic.

It would not be hard to knock holes in Shawn's Manhattan Marxism, if that's what it is.



Clare Coulter in Shawn's Fever: lively navel-gazing meets socio-economic analysis

of The Life of Brian. It's a jump typical of the Edinburgh Fringe but this time I found it less fun than I had hoped.

It begins with Adam and Eve in a variety of fig leaves and ends with the three-man cast in black evening dress.

his own name, is dressed like Biggles. There is updated Mosaic law ("Thou shalt not get away with murder unless thou livest in LA").

Pseud cornered

A second look at Jiri Kylian does not improve matters. Whereas one was prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt after his first programme at the Edinburgh Festival.

DANCE Nederlands Dans Theater Edinburgh Playhouse

Whereabouts Unknown (from 1993) starts so well, with a single female making her way — slowly, beautifully — along a shaft of light.

But the choreography tells us nothing beyond the fact that Kylian has a certain fluency of construction — and no taste in music (a taped compilation of Arvo Part, Anton Webern, Steve Reich and Charles Ives).

ronically processed" into a screaming nightmare of a soundscore. Six male dancers engage in a grunting pig of a work, whose premise is something about the search for answers to questions of human biology.

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Señors well met under one baton

THIS year marks the 100th anniversary of Roberto Gerhard's birth and the 50th of Manuel de Falla's death.

before the subdued but richly coloured closing bars. Falla in humorous, more earthy mode was heard in El Corredor y la molinera.

A more restrained languor characterises Falla's Psyche, to which Mannion and the players were equally sensitive.

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MUSIC Daniel Barenboim reveals an unexpected penchant for Latin American dance rhythms



GOING OUT From Pulp, Kiss and Longpigs at the weekend's big pop festivals in Chelmsford and Reading...

THE TIMES ARTS



GOING OUT ... to Kurt Masur and the New York Philharmonic at Edinburgh: the top events are in Weekend, page 12



NEXT WEEK Wendy Wasserstein prepares for the British debut of the play that won her the Pulitzer Prize

GREAT BRITISH HOPES
Rising stars in the arts firmament
DAVID TENNANT

Age: 25
Profession: Actor

Playing in: His first season with the RSC. His Scottish Touchstone in *As You Like It* has been greeted as the most memorable in years: manic and clever. He has also been applauded for his free-wheeling comedy in *The Herbal Bed* in which he plays the Stratford gent who slanders Shakespeare's daughter. In between he is Washington's right-hand man in *The General From America*.

Elsewhere: He may have caught your eye, not long back, streaking around the Lyttelton stage as the pageboy in *What The Butler Saw*. He is, to boot, the chronically depressed Campbell Bain being cheered up by Ken Stott in the BBC's award-winning *Takin' Over The Asylum*.

Comes from: Bathgate, between Edinburgh and Glasgow, possibly best known for a passing mention by the Proclaimers. "Bathgate, no more," they sang.

Kin: Tennant's father is a Presbyterian minister. His brother is the managing director of Sony Music Publishing for Britain.

Why acting? "I was certain this was what I wanted to do from a ridiculously young age, three or four. I wanted to be the people on the television. Then I realised those characters were pretend. Then I wanted to be the people who pretended." Tennant was on screen before he was out of school, talent-spotted by Scottish TV at a Saturday youth theatre club, an offshoot of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where he later trained.

The downside of the Forest of Arden: Back in Stratford, Shakespeare's pastoral idyll sounds positively lethal. The RSC's young stars — all Great British Hopes, incidentally — have been shooting across the slippery metal set. Victoria Hamilton broke her foot, Joseph Finnes dislocated his shoulder and Tennant crippled his ankle.

On himself: "I have no idea how to describe myself. Tall, skinny and Scottish. Overall, I am fairly happy. Maybe a bit bewildered. Only recently the National, the RSC, seemed a million miles away. Then suddenly Dame Judi Dench is across the corridor."

KATE BASSETT

The maestro loves to tango

Daniel Barenboim has a Latin passion. Joanna Pitman asks him for all the intimate details



As pianist and conductor, Barenboim has few worlds left to conquer. But the tango offers him musical refreshment

Daniel Barenboim emerges from the subterranean depths of the orchestra pit at Bayreuth's Festspielhaus, blinking warily as he adjusts to the afternoon light outside. We have captured him at the end of an intensive six-hour rehearsal of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, in preparation for the opening night of the Bayreuth Festival. It has been a long day of heavy Wagnerian mythological drama, and his eyes are still bulging slightly from his exertions. It is surprising, therefore, to see how a spot of tango talk can reinvigorate a weary conductor.

Barenboim has recently developed an unexpected and passionate interest in Argentine tango. He has done sessions in Buenos Aires. He has recorded a CD, *Mi Buenos Aires Querido* (My Beloved Buenos Aires). He has done showcases in Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Hamburg and he is about to do one in Buenos Aires. He is even thinking of teaming up to tango with Plácido Domingo.

Barenboim, now 54, is a monolithic presence on the conductor's podium and undoubtedly one of the greats in the world of the international piano soloist. After 47 years on the professional circuit, he has recorded to general acclaim all the Wagner warhorses, all the Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms piano concertos as both soloist and conductor, and has most of the remaining classical greats under his belt. He has the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin under his command. So what is this diversion all about? Could it mark the onset of some sort of musical menopause? Or is it merely a short-term indulgence?

"I was born in Buenos Aires and lived there until I was nine," he explains. "Tango was the music I heard every day in bars, restaurants, shops. My mother used to dance to the tango at parties at home. My cousin, who looked after me occasionally, was a great tango fan. Every time I returned to BA, I went to certain clubs to get my fix of the tango."

When Barenboim was in Buenos Aires with the Berlin orchestra last September, he turned up one evening at a favourite tango club to discover it had closed down. "I was deeply disappointed. This was the best club for tango in town and I really needed to hear the music, so a friend found a piano and arranged for two players to come and play tango with me for fun. There was a bandoneon [similar to an accordion] player and a string bass player. We hit it off extremely well and had a few

fantastic evenings playing together. And then, totally unexpected to me, to them and to Warner Classics, my recording company, we decided to make a record.

"There was no fuss made. These musicians were very talented players, so we rehearsed for two days and made the record in an afternoon. It was the most wonderful, refreshing thing I had done for a long time."

Argentina's tangos are not textbook music. They are full of improvisation and rely on the musicians' natural sense of dynamics, tempo and phras-

ing, so they are almost impossible to represent in a written score. Much of the music is played *a la parrilla* [stir fried] in a festival of syncopated spontaneity. "I fight daily in my conducting life against this straitjacket sense of awe that the score is fixed and immovable, so I found playing tangos utterly stimulating," says Barenboim.

The conductor's classical performances have a tendency to rely a little on the inspiration of the moment, and he has a weakness for romantic climaxes. So the tango repertoire, with its sentimental

decadence and rhythmic vitality, offers Barenboim just the sort of stimulating musical escape he loves.

The return to his roots has something to do with continuity and security, something to do with the delights of diversity. It also reflects a certain nostalgia — but not a sloppy, unthinking nostalgia.

"I am very keen on ethnic music," says Barenboim. "I made a record of West African music called *African Portraits* last year and I like Brazilian samba. I have developed a great appetite for different sounds. There is something

free and alive and natural about them. I think they are important.

"The cultural porridge that results from increased ease of communication is in danger of becoming bland if we forget about distinct national flavours."

Barenboim in public has a reputation for arrogance. In private he was charming. Many say he is difficult, often moody. If he is, the talk of tango must have put him in a good mood. He certainly left me in one.

• *Mi Buenos Aires Querido* is released on Teldec on September 4

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The scientific apocalypse of George Steiner

Daniel Johnson on an eminent critic who believes the arts can no longer ignore the culture of science

Forget the antics of the Fringe: the talking point at the Edinburgh Festival this month has been George Steiner's "over-ture", in which the sage predicted that the future of the arts lies in science. Newspapers ran excited reports of Professor Steiner's brilliant tour d'horizon and not a few of the audience were scandalised by it. What was all the fuss about?

At times, Steiner's panegyric of this most venerable of British arts festivals on its 50th anniversary sounded more like a funeral oration: "To know when to stop is a rare but vivid mark of honesty within excellence," he declared. But he was not merely wondering aloud about the future of the Edinburgh Festival; he was raising the bigger question of whether painting, drama, music and the other arts themselves have a future.

For Steiner, there will be no more Michelangelos, Shakespeares or Mozarts, merely a "byzantine afternoon". Only science — forward-looking, attractive to youth, capable of elegance, beauty and above all originality — beckons as "brimful of laughter and sun-rise". Steiner hails the imminent discovery of a "theory of everything".

This ode to a "joyful science" must, however, be seen against the dark background of Steiner's thought: a vision of almost unrelieved pessimism. His first book, published 35 years ago, was *The Death of Tragedy*, in which he charted the decline of tragic drama as the defining expression of Western culture. A few months ago, he wrote in *Prospect* about the exhaustion of the European and American novel, which could no longer compete with the best of "journalism" in the high and legitimate sense. There are few forms of expression — textual, musical, visual — that have not been subject to Steiner's prognosis of doom.

This vein of pessimism runs through all his work, fiction as well as non-fiction. Repeatedly, Steiner has lamented the eclipse of Western ethics and metaphysics after the Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jews. The almost bloodless collapse of communism was, for Steiner, by no means a consummation to be wished, certainly not devoutly: "The downfall of the Marxist ideal may bring with it the final enlightenment of Christianity," he wrote in 1993. All our troubles go back to the Holocaust. In his Edinburgh speech he delivered once more his anathema on the Christian culture of the West: "More than arguably, European civilisation will not regain its truth or natural vitality until the causal implication of Christianity, of its founding doctrines and institutions thereafter, in the 20th-century catastrophe, are faced up to unequivocally."

The apotheosis of science in Steiner's scheme of things is comparatively new, and a little surprising. It is not quite clear why we should treat the unquestionably colossal achievements of scientists any less critically than those of artists and writers, especially at a time when we are more aware than ever of the moral predicaments created by medical, biological and physical research. If the humanities were corrupted by totalitarian temptations, so too were the natural sciences. Much of modern technology, and even theory, is the by-product of war and tyranny.

As for Steiner's argument that the sciences can somehow revitalise the arts, that festivals such as Edinburgh should explore their

connections, geometrical and arithmetical: one does not have to be scientifically literate to know that the "techniques of presentation, of graphic intelligibility long-established in the arts" simply cannot be extended to contemporary scientific theory. Even polymaths such as Karl Popper, Jonathan Miller or Andrei Sakharov could not apply skills learnt from one discipline to another, and have usually had to specialise in the end.

It was the novelist C.P. Snow who inaugurated the last great debate about the place of science in this country. His 1959 lecture *The Two Cultures* taught that the traditionally dominant literary culture of England had failed to adapt to the emerging scientific culture of the past century. Snow condemned the reactionary politics of so many 20th century writers — "Didn't the influence of all they represent bring Auschwitz that much nearer?" — but argued that scientists "have the future in their bones". Their cosmopolitan culture, Snow believed, could reunite a world divided by the Cold War.

To the extent that Snow's vision foreshadows Steiner's, Lionel Trilling's cogent critique of *The Two Cultures* applies to them both. Trilling saw the division between scientific and literary cultures as artificial, and turned Snow's exemplary scientist, Faraday, against his argument, Faraday, who preferred the title of philosopher to that of physicist, would have been repelled by the limitations of scientific culture. He saw himself "not as a member of this or that profession or class, but as... a man speaking to men." Trilling's strictures apply to Steiner, too, insofar as the latter attributes to scientists "the most concentrated, innovative impulses towards the future" and ignores their philistinism. The transcendence of cultural exclusivity is just as desirable for the scientist as for the artist.

A confusion of categories lies at the root of Steiner's scientism. He and I both love chess, a game which has been seen both as a microcosm or paradigm of science and as an art form. When Steiner uses aesthetic categories to describe scientific theories or mathematical solutions, he has — I suspect — chess in mind. And yet the parallel breaks down precisely at this point. For the beauty of a combination in chess belongs to the purely human realm in a way that scientific discoveries do not. The supreme elegance of Newton's laws of motion did not protect them from falsification at Einstein's hands; their predictive accuracy was all that mattered to science. In that sense, science is now and always will be utilitarian; humanity never has been.

Steiner is only the latest to have tried to bridge the gulf between reason and emotion, Enlightenment and Romanticism, science and art. This is a laudable goal, but God forbid that science should ever usurp the humanising role of the arts. Far from rendering art, music and literature redundant, science has taught us that we need them to make sense of our increasingly alien and inhuman world. At the dawn of the scientific revolution, the mathematical and religious genius Pascal recoiled in terror from "the eternal silence of those infinite spaces". Those spaces are no less silent, no less infinite, no less terrifying today, merely because we know a little more about the matter that fills them.

As for Steiner's argument that the sciences can somehow revitalise the arts, that festivals such as Edinburgh should explore their

Alan Hamilton examines the Princess of Wales's love-hate relationship with the paparazzi

In pursuit of Diana the hunted

In her long-standing affair with the camera, the Princess of Wales often appears fickle. Even divorced, she remains probably the most photographed woman in the world, and snatched shots of her can still command a high price from foreign magazine editors. But, from her point of view, the affair goes sour when she is no longer in control.

If she visits a hostel for the homeless or an Aids ward in hospital, she makes sure that the mainstream newspaper photographers are tipped off. She once memorably and pointedly posed alone in front of the Taj Mahal, dropping the broadest of hints that all was not well with her marriage. To the dismay of many, she made certain she was filmed while watching a heart operation on a seven-year-old child at Harefield Hospital in west London.

To her, those photo-opportunities were fine, as it was she who was calling the shots. At other times, as when she announced that she was withdrawing from public life, the media attention has proved too much for her because she is no longer in charge. At one stage her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, was even moved to write to *The Times*

appealing to Fleet Street editors not to harass her daughter from dawn to dusk.

Give or take the occasional belly-crawling expedition through the bushes to photograph a pregnant Princess on a Caribbean beach, British newspapers are not the core of her problem. It is the freelance operators who stalk her constantly, reaping as they do for their living on the one exclusive picture for sale probably to a European magazine.

There was a time when royal photographers were entirely deferential, and would never have dreamt of standing anywhere other than in their prescribed spot at a public engagement. But the Princess of Wales changed all that the moment she came on the scene, and for one simple reason: she was the most marketable royal commodity for decades.

From the earliest days when her friendship with the Prince of Wales first leaked out, the cameras have pursued her night and day. Being stalked as she is now is nothing new; she was doormatted, followed, jostled and spied upon even before she was married.



Stalked: the Princess of Wales

oxygen of publicity — at least once she had learnt to stop staring at the ground under a broad-brimmed hat. Now she has become more weary, more brittle and more inclined to take action.

She was furious at publication by the *Mirror* newspapers of photographs taken secretly of her exercising in her gym. Recently, she and

the Duchess of York decided to bring charges against two French photographers arrested in the grounds of their holiday villa on the Riviera. But French privacy laws are much stricter than in England: the Duchess of York even managed to win damages from a French magazine which published the famous toe-sucking picture, which was taken with a telephoto lens poking into a private villa garden in the South of France.

Such action is more difficult in England, although the Princess did report the *Daily Mirror* to the Press Complaints Commission for publishing a long-lens picture of her on holiday.

This week's case, in which 50-year-old Martin Stenung was served with an injunction preventing him from approaching within 300 metres of the Princess, is not much about photography, more about stalking. He is the second man in recent weeks to have been warned away from the Princess by the courts: Klaus Wagner, a German doctor who had been following her and waiting outside her gym to press leaflets in her hand, had a similar injunction served on him.

Since she gave up her round-the-clock police protection, the Princess has become much more vulnerable to obsessives, whether or not they are ill-intentioned. Proposed legislation seeks to outlaw stalkers who, their victims claim, cause nothing short of psychological torture: those convicted could face up to five years in jail under the proposals.

That will not greatly help the Princess, who is fated for life to be the object of attention from the bona fide paparazzi, from the public at large and also, sadly, from the psychologically disturbed. Like any other famous and instantly recognised figure, she is in a dilemma when troubled by a particularly irritating stalker: seeking an injunction to keep him away merely adds oxygen to the ongoing Diana publicity fire, keeps her name and face before the public, and encourages the photographers to keep on her trail.

The only hope for the Princess — and it is a slender one — is for her to avoid all public functions, charity events, interesting men, jet-set resorts and glamorous clothes. In other words, only by becoming stupefyingly dull will she ever be able to persuade editors to call off the hounds.

Stirring up a storm in a teacup

It is absurd to compare Anglo-American relations now to the Boston Tea Party, says Peter Riddell

Even for Republican convention bombast, James Baker's claim that British-American relations have deteriorated to their worst since the Boston Tea Party in 1773 is absurd. It is a distortion of both past and current relations.

Of course President Clinton's contacts with Gerry Adams in 1994-95 at times infuriated the British Government. But that is largely in the past and relations are now, despite occasional differences, generally better than they were when Mr Baker was Secretary of State from 1989 until 1992.

I write this both as an enthusiast for American life and as a believer in the importance of America's continuing involvement in European and British security via a strong Nato. But that does not mean American and British interests are the same. They are, and have always been, different. Sentimental British pro-Americans fail to appreciate this distinctiveness, and hence foster misguided illusions about the "special relationship".

Before speaking at the Republican convention, Mr Baker should have read *Fighting with Allies: America and Britain in Peace and War* by Sir Robin Renwick, British Ambassador in Washington from 1991 to 1995. Due to be published in Britain soon, Sir Robin's account of transatlantic relations since the 1940s is mainly of how differences of interest have been overcome.

After all, for America's first century as a nation, relations were mostly bad: 41 years after the Boston Tea Party, British forces occupied Washington, while several times during the 19th century the countries nearly came to blows. In this century, differences have been frequent even during wartime co-operation, as the Roosevelt-Churchill correspondence has shown. In the postwar era, the Suez conflict exposed a far wider gulf than anything in recent years.

Clinton's election, and indeed before she left Downing Street.

One of the main causes was, ironically, Mr Baker himself. As Baroness Thatcher recalls in her memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*, "even the US State Department continued to put out briefing material against me and my policies — particularly on Europe".

To some extent the relative tilt of American foreign policy against Britain in this period may have been the result of the influence of Secretary of State James Baker. He "was clearly more anxious about handling German sensitivities than I was". These differences were aggravated by her reluctance to accept the inevitability of German reunification. Her doubts about Mr Baker are mirrored by his view of her in his memoirs, *The Politics of Diplomacy*.

The end of the Cold War was more important than personal relations in altering the balance between the countries. Britain — vital and dependable an ally though it has been, as during the Gulf conflict — was no longer so important in the post-Cold War world, compared, say, with Germany. This divergence was aggravated by the clumsy foreign policy of President Clinton in 1993-94, particularly over Bosnia, reinforced by lingering resentments in the White House over the Tories' inept intervention in the 1992 presidential campaign.

On Northern Ireland, British ministers have been annoyed by the White House's sudden changes of tack, apparently to appease the vocal Irish-American lobby at home. There was certainly much anger at the time over the decision to allow Mr Adams to enter America and to meet Mr Clinton — though, in retrospect, British officials believe it probably assisted the announcement of the IRA ceasefire. Ulster Unionists and their Tory allies have understandably accused the President of hypocrisy in view of his adamant opposition to any contacts with Middle Eastern countries and groups engaged in terrorist activities.

The tensions over the Adams visits have not prevented continuing close co-operation between



London and Washington. While Mr Clinton and John Major will never be as personally close as Mr Reagan and Lady Thatcher, they are both professional politicians who recognise the need to work together, as they generally do.

Moreover, transatlantic relations are much better than two years ago. Britain and America are co-operating closely on the ground in Bosnia, after last year's American-brokered deal. The end of the IRA ceasefire six months ago infuriated the Clinton White House, which felt it had gone out on a limb and been let down. Since then, Mr Clinton has supported the British approach.

For instance, when he met Tony Blair in April, he sought assurances that Labour would not play opposition politics and would back the Bill for elections in Northern Ireland, which it was always planning to do. The White House has also kept quiet in the row over the Orange marches.

The main cause of transatlantic difficulties at present is not Mr Clinton but the Republican Con-

gress and, in particular, the Helms-Burns Act, which the President reluctantly signed. This imposes sanctions on foreign companies doing business with terrorist states such as Cuba, Libya and Iran. Britain, like the rest of the European Union, objects to such extrajurisdictional legislation.

The unilateralist, as opposed to isolationist, policies of the Republicans are more of a threat to the Atlantic alliance than the occasional waywardness of Mr Clinton. Moreover, while Mr Dole is a strong supporter of free trade, he has not got on well with Mr Major. A meeting in Downing Street in late 1994 over Bosnia was said to be bruising and unfriendly.

Mr Baker's remarks are, therefore, a wild exaggeration, not only in themselves but also in their view of transatlantic relations. Since the 1940s there has always been an imbalance. As Sir Robin writes: "The relationship has generally been viewed more sanely through American than British eyes. For successive British governments it has appeared to offer some consolation for the loss of real power, leading them to exaggerate the

influence they could hope to derive from it. Accordingly, they have sought to place upon the concept a weight it will not bear." This was inevitably disappointing.

There are close transatlantic ties of history, language, investment and economic attitudes, as well as defence, nuclear and intelligence links. They will, and should, remain, but that does not mean Britain has to choose between Europe and America, which Sir Robin rightly describes as "one of the great fallacies of postwar British diplomacy". Despite doubts over European integration, "Britain cannot afford to be marginalised in Europe if it is to remain influential in Washington".

But Britain will always be different from other European countries — more transatlantic in approach and generally in favour of a deregulated, outward-looking Europe. But it is a fantasy to pretend that America is any longer interested in a special, bilateral economic and political relationship with Britain separate from Europe — as Mr Baker was the first to argue when he was Secretary of State.

Royal squall

WHILE Michael Portillo struggles to digest McDonald's plans for the Conservative Party headquarters in his Enfield constituency, he should brace himself for another bout of dyspepsia.

The Duke of Edinburgh has written of his concern for the future of Wren's masterpiece, the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, whose future the Defence Secretary is considering.

In a letter last month to Illyd Harrington, former chairman of the GLC, he wrote: "As a trustee of the National Maritime Museum, I am deeply anxious about the future of the Royal Naval College when the Ministry of Defence withdraws from the building in a few years' time. The situation seems chaotic."

The Prince of Wales considers Greenwich to be the most important threatened building in the country. The Duke now seems to be in despair about the length of time it is taking Portillo and the MoD to organise Greenwich University and the National Maritime Museum's expected move into the college. Both members of the Royal Family were trained at the college before taking to the waves.

Yesterday the Defence Secretary's private secretary said that he had been considering a report about the practicalities of the move and would make an announcement in "late August or early September".

No announcement can come soon enough for the Royal Family.



Prince Philip: making waves

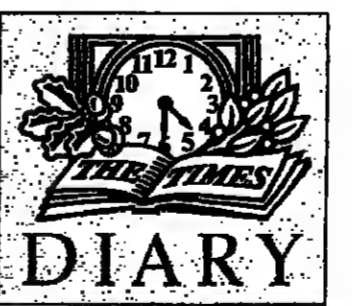
Residents of Gays Road in the remote Australian mining and farming town of Emerald have forced the local council to change their street name because they were fed up with being labelled homosexuals. The small street will now be known as Hogans Road.

Curryoke

KARAOKE is the latest diplomatic weapon to be deployed by the British in Hong Kong. A recent meeting between the Joint Liaison Group and their Chinese counterparts ended in a party at the home of Hugh Davies, chief British negotiator. Davies, a meticulously straitlaced FO type, served up an Indian supper and then switched on his newly installed karaoke machine.

The young Chinese diplomats, recently shipped in from Peking, were not to be held back, competing with their British hosts in singing ballads about passion in the New Territories. The one sour note came when a young woman on the Chinese side was asked how she was enjoying her curry. "It's quite disgusting," she said. "Surely you mean delicious?" said the questioner. "No, really quite disgusting."

The Chinese reciprocated with a round-the-table game of ping-pong fuelled by toasts of Mao Tai, a po-



tent local liquor. Davies kept up Britain's end with some ferocious top-spin forehands.

Life as the literary wife of the Prime Minister has its drawbacks. Norma Major, who is about to publish her long-awaited history of *Chequers*, has been sounding out about a publicity tour. *Special Branch*, very lively about the prospect, has given the nod — but only if there's no publicity.

Sleeptalker

A STARK lesson in the differences between British and American politics. Jack Kemp, the former American football star turned vice-presidential candidate, is hailed across the Atlantic as a man of such vision and charisma that he can be excused his fondness for hairspray.

Over here, supply-side theories are not enough.

Late last year, Kemp was invited to give the main speech at a smart dinner at Claridge's. In the audience was Lord Jenkins of Hillhead who later said the speech was one of the worst he had ever heard: "Lady Thatcher passed out completely during the speech. She had her head down into the soup plate more or less. Ted Heath, like a horse, can sleep standing up and he was completely out as well."

A strange man, John Humphrys, presenter on Radio 4's *Today* pro-



Watch out for royal stalkers

gramme. After the revelation on *at* yesterday that he wore no shoes, only socks, when broadcasting, I asked him why. "I'm patron of the barefoot society," he replied.

Pie-eyed

PRINCESS MICHAEL'S former aide John Kennedy, a man not noted for his mirth, must be feeling frightfully chipper after dispatching his response to a request for recipes for a charity cookbook.

The culinary plea had come from constituents of Halesowen, near Birmingham, the seat he will fight as a Tory candidate at the election. Kennedy, engaged to Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia, sent back an apology he received in the High Court last month.

The apology came from Labour's campaign manager, Brian Wilson, and the party press officer, David Hill, who had issued a scurrilous statement about links with Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader wanted for war crimes. Kennedy, 30, received damages and the growing apology under the heading "Humble Pie".

Van-ishing

THE University of Ulster is in mourning after the pork pie-



Van Morrison: brassed off

shaped singer Van Morrison politely declined the offer of a special guest lectureship.

The rock star, whose popular following in Ulster is inestimable, was offered the post after revealing an interest in teaching philosophy. He is notoriously shy and Bob Welch, head of English at the university, says that "once the whole thing got in the media, he lost interest". Mr Welch is, however, still hopeful. "We would remain very open to the possibility of him becoming involved."



THE DOLE PLAN

Republican fortunes rest on economic credibility

With an evocative address that focussed on values and virtues, Bob Dole closed the Republican National Convention and opened the real presidential campaign. His words identified insecurities felt by many Americans in a manner reminiscent of the "Silent Majority" speech delivered by his mentor, Richard Nixon, nearly thirty years ago. The emphasis of this speech was on trust, the word which will be one of two to dominate the election.

The other word is tax. Mr Dole's prospects are absolutely tied to public views of his economic programme. His stated goals are of radical cuts in taxation while achieving a balanced budget over a six-year timetable. Are they credible? Can they counter Democratic charges that the booming deficits of the early 1980s would quickly return?

This is a fundamental issue for Republicans to counter. Comparison with a decade ago can be described as misleading. In many ways the most significant element in the Reagan tax package was the decision to index-link American tax bands. Before then, double-digit inflation pushed many citizens into higher tax brackets despite no increase in real income. Every year major revenue increases came to the federal Government without politicians ever having to cast an unpopular vote for them. Washington then — unlike now — had a perverse incentive to maintain inflation.

A further factor then was the decision to pursue a vast increase in defence spending at the same time as the tax changes. Admirers of the former President assert — with strong justification — that the ultimate collapse of communism more than made up for the economic cost. Again Bob Dole has no commitment to such expenditure.

More centrally Republicans would point to two important political changes. The first is the overwhelming probability that a President Dole, unlike Ronald Reagan, would work with a Republican Congress

that has already shown its willingness to take on both tax cuts and budget balancing in the decisions that it took last year.

Equally important are the Republican governors in control of 32 states who have provided working models for the policies that Mr Dole now wants to implement at the national level. Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey and Wisconsin are led by chief executives who have pushed through budgets that scaled back taxation by margins of up to 30 per cent while ensuring a balanced outcome.

All this adds plausibility to the candidate's case. The economic circle can certainly not be squared, however, without touching two large and popular programmes, Medicare and social security. In the case of Medicare, the federal health programme for the elderly, reform is essential anyway: on current trends it will go bankrupt in five years. Republicans will have to return to their plan to scale back the rates of growth in spending which brought them political trouble in 1995.

Social security, which in the American context means mostly pensions, is an even greater challenge. It has been called the "third rail" of American politics — touch it and you are dead — yet it is at present swollen by a method of calculating the consumer price index that most economists agree exaggerates the real level of inflation. A relatively small correction of this distortion, though not uncontroversial, would save hundreds of billions of dollars.

The Republicans have thus rediscovered their soul this week. They have relaunched their prospects by embracing the legacy of the 1980s and placing the question of fundamental tax reforms unambiguously at the heart of their message. Their candidate still needs to put much of his past behind him. But the stance represents by far his best chance for victory. That is a lesson which others in this country might ponder.

IN THE STOMACH

A disciplined Opposition may look different in Government

There are "warning shots" and shots that sound real warnings. Clare Short's most recent attack on Labour's leadership was the banshee wail of the dispossessed. John Prescott's frank comments about the strains that change has placed on Labour come from the heart of the movement. Mr Prescott is nothing other than loyal to Tony Blair; but his candid analysis of a party fighting its own instincts to find itself in office should give the leader, and the voters, reason to review the state of Labour. The disciplined movement focused on power may be a different creature in government.

Mr Prescott's comments, given in a newspaper interview, appear designed to place a gently restraining hand on the process of modernisation which Mr Blair has forced on his party. The deputy leader claims that "when change follows change follows change, the party is bound to be left feeling uneasy". He argues that, despite the unease, Labour is determined not to allow divisions into the open and cites as evidence the Shadow Cabinet elections. Mr Prescott, immodestly but not inaccurately, takes credit for the parliamentary party's decision to support the leader's slate even though, as he admits "lots" voted for people "they could not stomach".

Shadow Cabinets have endured animosities before and gone on to govern. There was little love lost between George Brown and Harold Wilson. Enoch Powell never sat easily at Ted Heath's table, nor indeed did Ian Gilmour at Margaret Thatcher's. In any future Labour administration, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown will always find the air a little frosty between them — although they are unlikely to go as far as Canning and Castlereagh, ministers in the Duke of Portland's Government who fought a duel. It was not, however, Mr Cook, or even Mr

Brown, who is likely to have been one of the Shadow Cabinet members who inspired loathing in the bowels of the Labour movement. Harriet Harman is the colleague who benefited most from Mr Prescott's ability to impose order. Mr Blair's reluctance to hold Shadow Cabinet elections was driven by his knowledge of her vulnerability, an impression confirmed by her scraping home last of those elected.

Ms Harman's unpopularity is, superficially, a consequence of her decision to send her son to a selective school in defiance of party policy. Her decision certainly enraged activists but the dislike colleagues feel towards her runs far deeper and poses problems for Mr Blair. A metropolitan moderniser, she irks a parliamentary party still deeply traditional; the instinctive hostility she inspires goes beyond the personal into an expression of unhappiness not just with the pace, but the whole direction of Mr Blair's project. The inability of Labour MPs to "stomach" colleagues such as Ms Harman now does not suggest that they will be docile supporters of her as a minister when she makes the difficult decisions government demands and disappoints the client groups who expect so much of Labour.

If Labour wins the next election its parliamentary intake will be more in Mr Blair's mould. But, as with the Tory class of 1979, it will include talented dissidents. Although victory would hand Mr Blair authority of a kind no Labour leader has known since Attlee, it would also release backbenchers from fear that dissent will cost a looming election. The unease at internal upheaval which Mr Prescott has aired is intended to act as a brake on Mr Blair's enthusiasm for change. What his words reveal about Labour may also act as a brake on public enthusiasm for Mr Blair.

PITCH BABEL

Ich bin sick as un perroquet

It is five hundred years since the first foreign language phrase books appeared on the playing fields of England. New economic opportunities gradually made Renaissance migrants more conscious of their deficiencies in language. The best common argot — in their case Latin — became all too clearly inadequate. Polyglot dictionaries with up to 11 languages appeared — and have never left the shelves.

European football has always had its own argot too — a mixture of monosyllabic English and multi-digital abuse. But this season its dark age may be over. A new era in language courses, tapes, books and CD-Roms for referees is about to begin. When the teams took the field for Euro 96 three months ago, spectators felt great sympathy for the referees, hailing from anywhere between Connemara and Croatia, who were faced with communications problems which seemed to multiply with every game. Something more than sympathy will be needed for those who must govern the rainbow coalitions of the Premier League which starts today. Week-in, week-out, the teams will contain speakers of more different languages than ever before.

West Ham enter the new season with a squad containing eight nationalities speaking seven languages. These are not just the languages you might learn in schools. There

was a time when a well-educated referee understood enough French to tell the difference between Eric Cartona giving him a bit of verbal or a few philosophical insights. But the nien policing West Ham's games will be handling players whose mother tongues include Czech, Danish, Portuguese and Finnish. The money which has flowed into British football from television has acted as a magnet for other nationalities. Chelsea start the season with a Dutch player-manager and two newly-signed superstars from Italy. Blackburn have just signed their first Greek.

So far, referees have relied on the spoken English of foreign players, sign language or on preselecting an English player who can act as an interpreter. With Premiership players from a total of 31 countries besides Britain, improvisation may one day fail. Informal interpretation takes time and television is an impatient medium. Could simultaneous interpreters stationed in glass booths beam down instant translations to a referee's headset? Not unless they also had binoculars and could read lips.

Perhaps illuminated hoardings could flash "You gotta be kidding" or "I can't believe you didn't see that, ref" when the original has been yelled in Slovenian or Swedish. "Ich bin sick as un perroquet" will not always be enough.

Church role after a priest's murder

From the Right Reverend Gavin Reid, Bishop Suffragan of Maidstone

Sir, Thank you for your moving editorial ("Priest in the city", August 15) on the tragic death of the Reverend Christopher Gray (report, August 14; "Reflection on the death of a vicar", August 15; obituary, August 16).

The reality of the Church of England has very little to do with synod debates, in-church pressure groups, or the pronouncements of bishops. It has everything to do with its dogged and often courageous parish priests and the many faithful laymen and laywomen who keep witness to Christ alive in every part of this country. Christopher Gray was a fine example and there are many others.

In my experience few things bring more discouragement to these fine people than the withering scorn aimed at the "Church of England" that continually comes from some sections of the press. Your affirming coverage is, therefore, all the more encouraging even though the reason for the items is desperately sad.

Yours etc.
GAVIN MAIDSTONE,
Bishop's House,
Pen Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent.
August 16.

From the Right Reverend Roger F. Soinsbury, Area Bishop of Barking

Sir, Your leading article comments that the best answer to the tragic death of the Reverend Christopher Gray is "not retreat but engagement". I would agree wholeheartedly with this comment and would want to emphasise that the Church of England is totally committed to staying in the city.

But as a responsible pastor, being aware of the dangers from personal experience of 26 years of urban ministry, I would also want to support those clergy who are urging a review of security for all priests. I have therefore already written to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York asking that, as a matter of urgency, we look at the issues of security at the next House of Bishops meeting.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER BAKING
(Chairman, Bishops' Advisory Group for Urban Priority Areas),
Barking Lodge,
110 Chapel Road, Forest Gate, E7.

From Mrs Stella Job

Sir, I was deeply moved to hear of the murder of Christopher Gray, the Liverpool vicar. It was a tragic event, and I share the sorrow of his family, friends and congregation.

I work in a church where daily we encounter people who can be volatile because of mental illness or addiction. Some have a positive role in the church, but occasionally people are verbally or even physically violent. We could close our doors to these people and be "safe". But then we would deny our call to continue the ministry of Jesus.

We regularly review our security in order to minimise the risks as far as we can, but we cannot jeopardise the work we are called to do.

It is my sincere hope that Christopher Gray's death will not cause Christians to withdraw from those who are rejected by society. I am sure he would not have wanted that. I hope that church councils will carefully consider the security of their clergy and staff, but I hope, too, that Christians will see Gray as an example of someone whose death, although tragic, is not a waste. It witnesses to the self-giving love of Christ.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA JOB,
Flat 2, 25 Grove Park Gardens, W4,
August 16.

Building in the City

From Mr Paul Drury

Sir, English Heritage is far from having "cleared" the way for a massive new building on the site of the old Baltic Exchange as suggested by the former Chief Executive and Secretary of the Baltic Exchange (letter, August 10).

The only consent granted is for a new building on the site which would incorporate the significant parts of the bomb-damaged Grade II* listed building. As yet, we have not seen the details of Sir Norman Foster's proposals for a 90-storey building, although we expect a formal planning application in the autumn. However, as the Government's principal adviser, we have many reservations about the impact a tower of this scale would have on London, quite apart from the unresolved issue of the future of the facade and hall of the Baltic Exchange.

As I wrote to the City Corporation in March: "The total demolition of a Grade II* listed building is not a matter to be taken lightly." This remains our position.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DRURY
(Conservation Director,
London and South East Region),
English Heritage,
23 Savile Row, W1,
August 14.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Short shrift for Tory attack on Blair

From Mr Michael Smith

Sir, I am confused by Mr Portillo's defence of the "New Labour — New Danger" publicity campaign ("The eyes have it, not the lips", August 13).

He tells us not to be misled by Mr Blair but to listen to Mr Blair's critics within the Labour Party and to see for ourselves the "danger" we are in before deciding how to vote in the election.

Not so long ago, there was a huge rebellion of Conservative MPs (led by a member of the Cabinet, no less) against Mr Major. Are we expected to believe that this has now died down? Have these rebel MPs been coerced into "unity" by "dark forces" within Conservative Central Office? Are we to follow Mr Portillo's advice and listen to Mr Major's critics within the Conservative Party before passing judgment on the Prime Minister?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SMITH,
37 High Oak Road,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
August 13.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, The concern of commentators should not be about the pathetic attempt to "demonise" Tony Blair, but the debasement of the Conservative Party by inept and objectionable ministers. In this regard, it comes as no surprise to find Michael Portillo vigorously defending the indefensible.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GALE,
37 Harlech Road, N14.

From Lord Poole

Sir, What a namby-pamby nation of milkops we seem to have become in this age of eggshell-treading political correctness. What would the political writers of the 18th and 19th centuries have thought of the pathetic reaction to the latest Conservative advertising?

In this grey world we inhabit we

should welcome some colourful political below-the-belt knockabout and look forward with pleasure to a bombshell reply from Labour.

Yours faithfully,
POOLE,
53 The Chase, SW4,
August 13.

From the Reverend Ralph S. Werrell

Sir, I presume the latest Conservative poster is trying to tell us: "Vote for the Devil you know..."

Yours sincerely,
RALPH S. WERRELL,
2a Queens Road,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire,
August 12.

From Mr C. L. Kauffmann

Sir, As Ms Clare Short (letter, August 14) did not identify at the time what she meant by "people like me", Mr Portillo was perfectly entitled to believe that she was in favour of higher taxes for those on £30,000 — and so was everyone else.

What he wrote was not a lie but, on the other hand, by not qualifying her statement until now, is Ms Short not guilty of saying a half-truth?

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE KAUFFMANN
(Chairman),
Guildford Conservative Association,
63 Woodbridge Road,
Guildford, Surrey,
August 14.

From Mr Nicholas Thompson

Sir, If Clare Short really wants to give the Revenue more of her money all she need do is send them a cheque, preferably without making a hoo-ha over it.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS THOMPSON,
East Whiddon, Landkey Road,
Barnstaple, Devon,
August 15.

Fabians and monarchy

From Professor David Flint

Sir, So the Fabian Society wants to downgrade the monarchy (report, August 12). This is the same society who so confidently prescribed the socialist path and which must bear the heavy responsibility for decades of economic decline, not only in the United Kingdom, but also in India and elsewhere.

Now, with the same confidence, they would undermine one constitutional and Commonwealth institution which works — and which works well.

The proposition that the Queen be stripped of the title and functions of the Head of the Commonwealth, which would become a rotating presidency, demonstrates a misunderstanding not only of that organisation but also of the integrity, standing and dedication of the monarch.

That the people of the Commonwealth could be expected to accept as their symbol an array of what are essentially politicians, indicates that the authors are completely out of touch

with reality. Not so long ago, Idi Amin would have been a candidate.

Yours etc,
DAVID FLINT
(Dean, Faculty of Law),
University of Technology, Sydney,
PO Box 123, Broadway,
Sydney, NSW 2007,
August 14.

From Mrs Heather Pearn

Sir, The Queen has been a most superb head of the Commonwealth. Why change something that could not be bettered?

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER PEARN,
Roundwell House,
South Petherton, Somerset.

From Mr Raymond Wood

Sir, God save the Queen — and all her loyal subjects — from the Fabian Society.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND WOOD,
The Castle House,
Long Street, Sherborne, Dorset.

BSE cattle cull

From Mrs Doreen Forsyth

Sir, This morning I felt extremely distressed as I watched a number of our ten-day old baby calves being herded into a wagon to be taken away for incineration. These were perfectly healthy animals, and I can still see their confused faces looking out of the wagon as they left our farm.

Last week I felt physically sick when the abattoir rang to ask about the size of some of our cattle which were being taken for slaughter. I asked the caller why he wanted to know and he replied, "Well, we can get more carcasses into the skip, and therefore we make more money. We get paid by the number of heads." Once again, these were beautiful cattle which I had watched for many months contentedly grazing outside my kitchen window.

These events made me wonder if the average man in the street realises that a "cattle holocaust" is taking place.

MPs' pay

From Professor Eric Moonman

Sir, I was surprised to read Dame Angela Rumbold's remarks (report, August 14) that the MPs' job has changed so much over the last 20 years as to justify the recent salary increase. Perhaps she ought to talk to one or two of her colleagues in the tea room, who will explain the lifestyle of Parliament 20 or 30 years ago.

I believe my experience as an MP in the 1960s and 1970s was fairly typical. I had to exist on a salary which was no more than the recent increase of £9,000. There was no free mail facility other than to a constituent and no research or secretarial salary allocation. I shared a part-time secretary with two other MPs, yet I represented the largest constituency in the country, with over 100,000 electors (Billericay, then including Basildon).

Nor were there any travel freebies on the scale that some MPs now enjoy and no fringe benefits or pensions to talk of. Yes, a very different set of rewards for the MP.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MOONMAN,
1 Beacon Hill, N7.

Telephone boxes

From Mr M. C. Martin

Sir, Your leading article, "Box in the manger" (August 14), states: "For 11 years people have called for a return of the Scott boxes". Who are these people? Not Mrs Jean Gaffin (letter, August 16) for one.

BT has put a great deal of effort into trying to design public telephones so that they are easy of access to people with mobility problems and have facilities such as induction coupling for hearing aids. They are a significant improvement on the Scott boxes. Many of us admire steam trains but no one would suggest that they come back as the norm for rail transport.

By all means improve the current design, but do not make phone boxes less accessible. Let us make sure that all new boxes allow access to as many people as possible, not just those who can manage a Scott box.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. MARTIN
(Chairman, Cost 219 UK Liaison Group on Telecommunications for the Disabled and Elderly),
Gerrards, Hill House Hill,
Liphook, Hampshire.

A level playing field for exams?

From Professor Emeritus Luke Herrmann

Sir, Even though it is August it comes as a surprise to someone of my generation that A-level results and grades are headline news. A month ago university degree results were also in the headlines. In both cases the rise in the award of higher grades and classes has caused concern, and it is felt that standards must have fallen. This is, of course, hotly denied by schools and universities.

However, it may be that behind the higher rates of top A-level grades and of first and upper second-class degree results is the feeling among examiners that this is the only way of recompensing today's students for the continuing decline in teaching standards and facilities. These are the inevitable result of the constant pruning of government finance for education.

In universities the authorities have chosen to compensate staff for the decline in their working conditions by easier promotion, especially to chairs. Good education can never be cheap; government action (it can not be called policy) over the last decade has degraded education in this country.

Yours faithfully,
LUKE HERRMANN
(Professor, History of Art,
University of Leicester, 1973-89),
The Coombes, Sibbertoth,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire,
August 15.

From Mr Mel Owen

Sir, If the increase in A-level exam results were really due to improved teaching then one would expect to see very much wider variations in improvement. It stretches credibility to beyond breaking point to expect the overwhelming majority of teachers throughout the land to have achieved almost the same improvement over the same 12-month period.

What we seem to be seeing is a reasonably uniform rise that is generally independent of subject, school or teacher. The only two mechanisms that can achieve this are widespread exam simplification or widespread over-marking.

Surely it is for Steve Sinnott, of the National Union of Teachers, to explain away this obvious fact rather than to denigrate as a "nasty little group" those of us who are only drawing attention to the blindingly obvious (report, August 15).

Yours faithfully,
MEL OWEN,
Blue Row Farm, Parkhill Road,
Somersham, Huntingdonshire.

From Mr David Reece

Sir, May I offer a personal comment on A-level standards, having just gained an A grade in Italian, 35 years after my three other A-level languages (all Cs, then considered solid passes, if undistinguished). A different examinee, I know, but perhaps a volunteer's enthusiasm and my daily exposure to Italian somewhat compensates for the loss of youth's ability to absorb and retain.

Certainly, the exam seemed a lot easier: straightforward translation texts with few pitfalls for the unwary, modern literature, relevant vocabulary. Easier on learning skills, then, but more demanding on comprehension and powers of expression — more emphasis on the spoken word, more essays and original work.

I feel better able this time to make the newly-acquired language work for me. And better motivated — on to the external degree!

Yours faithfully,
D. A. REECE,
Ascom, Via Monte Grappa 35,
21038 Leggiano (VA), Italy.

From Mrs M. S. Thurman

Sir, I write as a senior examiner for A level for most of the 1980s and a lecturer in the further education sector for some 25 years, in response to your report of August 12 on the 14 per cent mark reputedly necessary to gain a C-grade pass mark in GCSE-level maths.

The "market" economy was having its effects on A-level grades as long as ten years ago. My board was considered "hard". In college we routinely entered weaker candidates for a board which, from experience, we knew was more likely to award them a pass grade.

All my colleagues were equally aware of a hierarchy in difficulty in various boards. My board, fearing they might be losing candidates to others, lowered its own standards.

When boards need candidates and schools/colleges need good pass rates, allowing the market economy a major part in the process can be extremely dangerous.

Yours faithfully,
M. SHIRLEY THURMAN,
Erbisack, Heath Lane,
Willaston, South Wirral,
August 12.

From Mr P. L. Wheelton

Sir, If we accept the suggestion that A levels are getting easier because more candidates pass them, can we assume that Mount Everest is becoming smaller because greater numbers of climbers manage to reach its summit?

Yours faithfully,
P. L. WHEELTON
(Deputy Headmaster),
Carre's Grammar School,
Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire,
August 15.

NEWS

Princess ready to enter witness box
The Princess of Wales is prepared to give evidence at the High Court to support her claim that she has been psychologically abused by a freelance photographer.

Her commitment came as Martin Stenning, a former labourer who took up photography four months ago, denied that he had harassed the Princess and vowed to contest an injunction which bans him from approaching her.

Hopeful students besiege universities
Hundreds of students with disappointing A-level grades arrived on university doorsteps yesterday to plead for a place face-to-face with admissions tutors after more places than usual had already been filled.

Drug case girl reunited
A British girl aged 8 was reunited with her mother but saw her father start a five-year prison sentence for drug smuggling in Morocco last night.

Prisoner Princess
The Princess of Wales's affidavit against a stalker says that she is too frightened to venture outside Kensington Palace.

Hill's court denial
Jimmy Hill, the BBC commentator, told a court he did not know his sons had used his name to boost their ailing business.

Street goes green
A terraced street in Yorkshire is being turned into a village green as residents turf the road for their annual summer fête.

Cannabis fuels Irish
Cannabis will light up thousands of Irish homes by replacing peat as a vital fuel to generate electricity.

Referee wanted - must have languages
Referees will shoulder a fresh burden when the football season kicks off today - one of language. After the glut of summer transfers, teams in the FA Carling Premiership will feature players from 35 countries, threatening to make refereeing a job for accomplished polyglots.



Jim Rose, an American freak show performer at the Edinburgh Festival, herds sheep down the Royal Mile in the Scottish capital yesterday. Freemen of the city have historically had the right to herd sheep along Princess Street, but it has not been exercised for around 300 years.

OPINION

The Dole plan: The Republicans have rediscovered their soul. They have re-launched their prospects by embracing the legacy of the 1980s Page 19

COLUMNS

Alan Hamilton: The Princess of Wales is in a dilemma: seeking an injunction to keep the stalker away merely adds oxygen to the fire of publicity Page 18

BUSINESS

Economy: City economists warned the Government about complacency over public finances last night after a strong swing into the black during July Page 23

SPORT

Football: The FA Carling Premiership kicks off an exciting new season, starring many imported players Page 44

ARTS

Hollywood offspring: Richard Morrison looks at a new trend in film-making - computerised film stars - and questions the future of the \$20 million Hollywood actor Page 15

LETTERS

A levels: Tory attack on Blair, priest's murder: Fabians and the monarchy: telephone boxes Page 19

OBITUARIES

Charles Hadfield, canal historian; Herbert Haacke, writer; Jean Muir, actress; Stephen Barnes, journalist Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,249

Aberlour A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 496, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

- ACROSS
1 Yank wearing waistcoat (6).
5 Clamp down on drink given to journalists (8).
9 Dog Conservative leading vigorous form of government (10).
10 Piano providing some parts of tune (4).
11 About feature, gets strange impressions (8).
12 Fashions are not flowery (6).
13 A river, a French or English one (4).
15 Mark has not been a revolutionary (4,4).
16 False financial undertakings given by 27 (8).
19 Senseless strikes (4).
21 Band in the distance (6).
23 Spots not following second rash (8).
25 Not quite the king's champion (4).
26 A single shoe - otherwise self paired (10).
27 Tailless creature in fits about goat (8).
28 Businessman about to be consistent (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,243 and Solution to Puzzle No 20,248. Includes crossword grids with filled-in letters.

WEATHERCALL

Table of weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants, and others.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a dry and very warm day. Early mist and fog will clear and then there will be plenty of sunshine. Winds will be mainly light with sea breezes developing around some coasts.

AROUND BRITAIN

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures for various locations across Britain like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, and Manchester.

NOON TODAY

Map of Britain showing weather conditions at noon, including sun, clouds, rain, and temperature indicators.

AA ROADWATCH

Table of AA roadwatch information for various roads, including London & SE traffic, Essex/Herts/Beds/Ducks/Berks/Oxon, and others.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for today and tomorrow.

HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various locations like London, Southampton, and others.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table of highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations like Moscow, Tokyo, and others.

TORONTO OR NEW YORK

Advertisement for Concorde flights to Toronto and New York, including details on routes, aircraft, and prices.

MONTE CARLO AND RIVIERA

Concorde supersonic to Nice on 6 Sept. Concorde to Heathrow £699

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Oriana Express to Southampton on 31 Aug. Oriana Express to Southampton on 15 Dec.

CONCORDE AROUND THE WORLD

Eurostar to Paris on 15 Feb. Concorde to Dubai, Singapore, Bali, Sydney, Fiji, Hawaii, Acapulco, Bermuda and New York to Heathrow.

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Heart beat: Neneh Cherry, the hippest chick on the block, is back... Page 8

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Revenge: Danny Brown, Johnny Vaughan, The Fall Guy, Friday, BBC2, 10pm

CAR 96

Scooter sales have shot up as commuters take to two wheels

REVENUE

Revenue: 1996-97: 1996-97: 1996-97

REVENUE

Revenue: 1996-97: 1996-97: 1996-97

REVENUE

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Friday

WORKING WEEK
Former actuary who looks after number ones
PAGE 25



SPORT
New faces to fore as Premiership season kicks off
PAGES 37-44

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF RENAULT
PAGE 25

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

Cabinet's De Lorean papers made public



De Lorean: founded marque

SECRET government papers, including minutes of Cabinet meetings with Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, have been made public in the 11-year-old De Lorean Motor Cars case in New York.

The Cabinet's De Lorean file was opened to the public after Malcolm Schade of Thacher Proffitt & Wood, the Government's legal counsel in Manhattan, decided earlier this week that he would not oppose their disclosure.

Arthur Andersen welcomed the move. A spokesman said: "These Cabinet records show that ministers were well aware of the financial and commercial risks at the time public money was committed."

Arthur Andersen nonetheless thinks the government documents can only back its claims that the Government put the prospect of political gain ahead of financial common sense.

Government finances swing into the black

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City last night cautioned against government complacency about public finances after figures showed a strong and unexpected swing to the black last month.

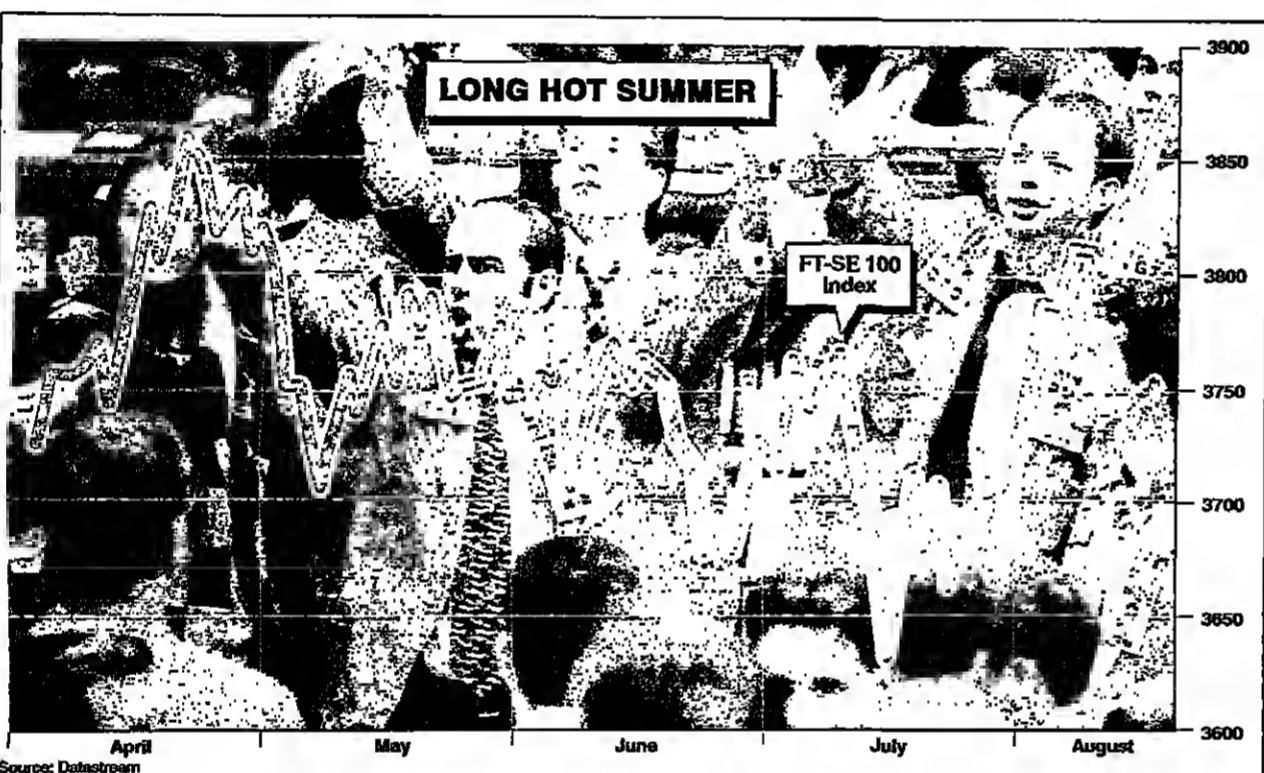
The Exchequer saw an inflow of £1.66 billion in July, far bigger than a surplus of a few hundred million that the City had expected at best. In addition, the public sector borrowing requirement for June was revised down to £3.48 billion from the £3.65 billion previously reported.

The inflow came partly because of a seasonal surge in corporation tax — as well as healthy receipts of value-added tax and income tax — and £844 million of privatisation proceeds, mainly from the flotation of British Energy.

Including privatisation, the overall picture looks healthier than last year. The cumulative PSBR over the first four months of the current tax year is £8.77 billion. That compares with £12.13 billion at the corresponding stage last year.

However, if privatisation is stripped out, the cumulative position so far in 1996 is a PSBR of £11.0 billion, only just more than £1 billion better than the £12.1 billion at the same stage last year.

Kevin Darlington, of ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, said: "A



significant debt repayment makes up for some of the disappointment so far this financial year. But, ex-privatisation proceeds, the underlying downturn of the PSBR remains modest."

In spite of yesterday's surprisingly good figure, he is still forecasting a PSBR of £3 billion this year of £30 billion. This is much higher than the Chancellor's latest prediction in his Summer Economic Forecast of a £26.9 billion borrowing

requirement, which was a substantial upward revision from the £25 billion pencilled into last November's Budget.

been closed there was satisfaction with the way receipts had bounced back. Income tax was boosted by receipts from the schedule D self-employed. Healthy corporate profits were reflected in a £900 million payment of advanced corporation tax, and VAT was stronger. One potential black spot is spending. Departmental spending was up 7 per cent on a year ago.

Southgate says EMI not facing takeover

By Sarah Cunningham

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, said yesterday that he had not been approached with offers for the music business. There has been continued speculation that after Monday's demerger the music side will be a takeover target.

He was speaking after an extraordinary meeting at which shareholders voted overwhelmingly in favour of the demerger of Thorn, the rentals business, and EMI, the music side. The two will be listed separately on the London Stock Exchange as EMI Group and Thorn from Monday.

Sir Colin will remain chairman of both companies for the first year, then at EMI alone. Both will feature on the elite FT-SE 100 index, forcing the demotion of Cookson Group, the industrial materials company.

Possible bidders for EMI are believed to include the MCA unit of Seagram and Walt Disney. "Everybody in this business talks to everybody," Sir Colin said. "But no one has ever put an offer on the table."

The total cost of the split is £70 million, Sir Colin told shareholders. Analysts expect Thorn shares to open at between 390p and 420p on Monday, Thorn EMI shares, boosted in recent months by takeover talk, closed yesterday up 44p, at £18.33.

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WEEKEND MONEY



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Rate savings for big spenders



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Monthly income. Where to find the best rates



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Russian trusts. Should you follow the bear?

BAe and Matra form joint venture missile business

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Matra, of France, have established a joint venture that will become Europe's largest missile business with a turnover of £1 billion. The agreement follows the success by the companies last month in securing a £600 million order for UK cruise missiles.

The joint venture — Matra BAe Dynamics — comes after three years of negotiations and will push the pair to number three slot in the world missile rankings. The cruise deal guaranteed the immediate commercial logic of the move that is part of a widespread consolidation trend in aerospace.

BAe is buying into the deal with an £80 million initial payment to balance the values of the two businesses but this may be adjusted depending on the amount of orders the two companies achieve. BAe said there were no plans for job reductions. The two operations employ 6,000 in the UK and France. However, analysts expect some streamlining as operations such as research and development are merged.

European aerospace companies are under increasing pressure to form alliances in order to match their large US rivals which have undergone a series of mergers. Matra BAe Dynamics' board will be chaired by John Weston, chairman of BAe's defence company, while the chief executive will be Noel Forgeard, president of Matra Défense Espace.

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Wickes names new finance director

By Sarah Cunningham

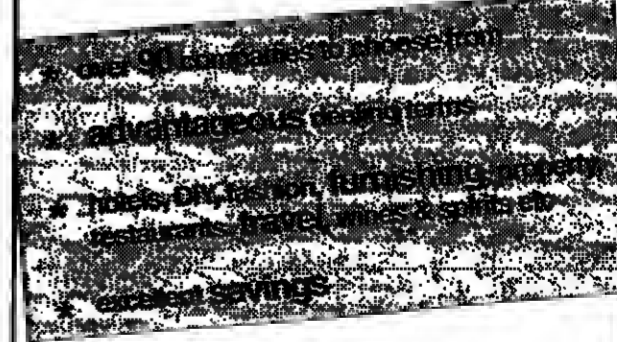
WICKES, the DIY retailer, yesterday appointed a new finance director and said it expects to provide shareholders with information on the inquiry into serious accounting errors next month.

Michael von Brentano, chairman of Wickes, wrote in a letter to shareholders that Bill Hoskins, former finance director of Laporte, the speciality chemicals company, will replace Stuart Stradling, current finance director, as soon as the inquiry is completed. Mr Hoskins's salary is expected to be about £190,000.

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Settlement boost for Maxwell creditors

By Jon Ashworth

CREDITORS of the collapsed Maxwell group of companies received a significant boost yesterday when Coopers & Lybrand in America agreed to pay \$68 million to settle outstanding legal action. The settlement, which relates to the firm's role as auditor to Macmillan, the US publishing house, will boost the amount payable to creditors by up to 3p in the pound.

The settlement is one of the biggest to involve an accountant in America — aside from claims relating to the collapsed savings and loan industry. Mark Homan, joint administrator of Maxwell Communication Corporation, which formerly owned Macmillan, expects the projected payout for MCC's creditors to rise to between 46p and 51p in the pound, compared with a previous range of 44p to 48p. A further distribution of at least 3p is expected in

late September. Mr Homan continues to pursue claims against various advisers, including a separate action against Coopers & Lybrand in the UK. The US claim arose from the firm's audit of Macmillan in the year to end March 1991, and the removal of shares in Berlitz International from Macmillan's control to Maxwell private companies. A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand in the US said: "We are pleased the matter is behind us."

Various Berlitz transactions are the subject of a second Maxwell trial, which is due to start next year. Kevin Maxwell, Larry Trachtenberg and Albert Fuller face various charges relating to the alleged pledging of Berlitz shares as securities for loans. Robert Maxwell is named as a co-conspirator in two of the counts. Michael Stoney, a former Maxwell director, faces two counts of false accounting.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices (FT-SE 100, FT-SE All-Share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite), US Rate, London Money, Sterling, Dollar, and North Sea Oil prices.

Euro fantasy will strike at the heart of manufacturing

The UK's participation in the European Union is constantly in the news with politicians and the media endlessly occupied by the question of Britain's future role. Should we sign up to a single European currency? Should we be part of a federal Europe? While it is essential to consider these questions it seems that in focusing our attention on what lies ahead we risk losing sight of the present. Damaging and ill thought-out policies are pouring out of Brussels at a rate of knots without consultation or serious debate.

The regulations that most concern me are not the typical scare stories of needless interference randomly cited by the tabloids. Rules on the shape of bananas, or attempts to ban British chocolate, will always make the headlines. The directive proposals emanating from Brussels that attract most publicity are not the most dangerous.

Today the sword of Damocles hangs over our retailing and

manufacturing industries is the European Draft Directive on Consumer Guarantees. The latest Euro fantasy is harmonised consumer laws throughout the European Union. Eurocrats are dissatisfied that only 15 per cent of consumer purchases take place outside the shopper's own area. So, ignoring economics and disregarding intellectual robustness, they have devised a scheme which ranks among the worst examples of Euro folly.

Regulation without necessity makes bad law. In general, consumers will only shop cross-border when they can get a better deal than they could at home. Most consumers have no intention of travelling from country to country to do their shopping. As for anyone buying large products like a car or refrigerator, the burden of increased delivery costs ensures crossing borders just isn't worthwhile.

The new directive would strike at the very heart of Europe's manufacturing industry, gravely

undermining the retailing sector at incalculable cost. A cost that would ultimately be borne by consumers. The directive's draconian provisions include a regulation that the discovery of any fault, within the first year after a product has been purchased, gives the customer an absolute right to demand a replacement or full refund. However easy it would be to repair the fault, that would not be an option for the retailer or manufacturer. The customer could insist on a new product, with the original purchase, less than a year old, presumably consigned to the scrapheap.

It is an axiom of manufacturing that products develop faults and need to be repaired. It is also unavoidable that some products possess minor faults at the time of manufacture and may require post-sales adjustment. The EU directive is blind to this fact. It asks the impossible of manufacturers: requiring them to produce goods to such a flawless standard that they can never have a defect. The Euro-

pean Commission has made no attempt to contemplate the cost, in economic or environmental terms, of this Utopian proposal.

It is the fundamental principle of the supply chain that products are manufactured on a cost-effective basis, keeping prices down and enabling the consumer to purchase goods at a relatively low price. Because the manufacturing

process is geared towards providing goods that are affordable some products will inevitably develop faults. But it's common sense to correct such flaws. If an 11-month-old car develops a minor fault the consumer now has a right to have it repaired, but if Brussels has its way, he could have his retailer scrap the car and supply him with a new one. It is economic illiteracy to discard a product which develops a fault if it can easily be repaired but this is precisely what the directive requires.

Another problem the directive fails to consider is the potential for dishonest customers to deliberately damage goods to obtain a refund or replacement after up to one year's free use. Unscrupulous individuals could turn the directive into a cheat's charter with the cost of such abuse inevitably falling on honest shoppers. Who would arbitrate in the inevitable flood of disputed claims? The Consumers' Association has criticised the proposals as "unaccept-

able" and "unnecessary" and is lobbying the UK Government to stick with our existing Sale of Goods Act. What customers want is a good quality product at a value-for-money price. It is beyond the capacity of industry to always manufacture fault-free goods. If manufacturers even attempted to comply with excessive EU demands costs would be much higher. Goods would be priced out of many consumers' reach.

The effect of the legislation would be to penalise the responsible retailers and suppliers that honoured the new laws. Small businesses would be hit particularly hard. According to the Federation of Small Businesses there are currently 217,000 small retail outlets and they estimate that following enactment of the proposed legislation that number would fall to 150,000 with a loss of 200,000 jobs. Larger businesses would suffer because low-end manufactured products would be driven into the car boot sales and second-

ary markets where consumer law is rarely honoured.

This draft directive is symptomatic of a tide of regulations coming out of Brussels that threatens to limit our economic success. It is preposterous that nowhere in the European Commission's proposals is consideration given to their cost. No fair-minded person would object to reasonable regulation. Such safeguards amount to basic rights and a sensible framework of rules should protect the consumer. But in recent years the balance has shifted. What we are seeing is the concept of harmonisation developing into a major assault on the long-established principles of economic supply and demand. It will be a sterile debate when, in five or ten years' time, we consider the consequences of joining a single currency if British industry has already suffered death by a thousand cuts.

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Sir Stanley Kalms

Sir Stanley Kalms is chairman of D'vins

Lloyd's players to unite as rebels' gloom deepens

By JON ASHWORTH

A FRESH bout of deal-making swept Lloyd's of London yesterday, when no fewer than four long-established market players announced plans to tie-up or merge. Masthead Insurance Underwriting, one of the original Lloyd's spread vehicles, is seeking to merge with Murray Lawrence, the managing agency, to create a group with more than £500 million in underwriting capacity.

Another agent, Cox Insurance Holdings, is seeking to

acquire Christopherson Heath, the motor and personal lines underwriter, to create a group with about £475 million in capacity.

The deals came to light as a High Court judge refused to grant Lloyd's names leave to appeal in their failed attempt to block the market's reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan. Members of the Paying Names Action Group will have to apply separately to the Court of Appeal by 10am on

Monday if they wish to take the case further.

Shares in Masthead were suspended at 110p yesterday, as details of the proposed Murray Lawrence deal emerged. Directors said the combination of Masthead's capital and Murray Lawrence's management and underwriting skills would enable the enlarged group to exploit opportunities in the "new-look" Lloyd's market. The merger is conditional on the successful implementation of R&R.

The board of the enlarged group will consist of five Murray Lawrence directors. Sir Jeffrey Bowman, former head of Price Waterhouse, will become non-executive deputy chairman.

Masthead is capitalised at about £45 million, and trades at a 15 per cent premium to its net asset value per share of 96.7p. Murray Lawrence is the second-largest managing agent at Lloyd's.



David Crossland, Airtours chairman, is paying £26 million for the MS Song of Norway

Airtours adds to cruise fleet

By CLARE STEWART

AIRTOURS, the holiday group, is to expand its cruise ship operation with the £26 million acquisition of a new ship, the MS Song of Norway. The 1,062-berth ship is the third Airtours cruise ship and is being bought from Royal Caribbean Cruises in a cash deal. The acquisition will expand passenger capacity by 50 per cent.

Airtours says the acquisition has been made "to keep pace with demand" for its fly-cruise holidays from customers in the UK, Scandinavia and Canada. Airtours launched its fly-cruise business in 1994. Its existing two ships carry around 100,000 passengers a year.

From next May the MS Song of Norway will operate in the Mediterranean and Caribbean after an £2 to £3 million refurbishment. It will be based in Palma, Majorca. *Tempus, page 26*

Store credit tops £1bn

RETAIL store credit sales for the second quarter exceeded £1 billion for the first time, up 11.3 per cent on the same period of 1995, according to figures released yesterday by the British Retail Consortium. At the end of June, the number of store

accounts grew to nearly 14 million, an increase of 19 per cent on the same time last year. Outstanding credit rose to £2.3 billion, up 25.8 per cent from £1.8 billion a year earlier. This was seen as a reflection of an improved consumer climate.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bond convicted over Impressionist sale

ALAN BOND, the former Australian tycoon and winner of yachting's America's Cup in 1983, was found guilty by a jury at the West Australian District Court yesterday of defrauding his now defunct corporation over the purchase and resale of a French Impressionist painting in 1988. Bond, 58, once one of Australia's richest men, had pleaded not guilty.

Judge Antonine Kennedy ordered that Bond, who had been free on bail during the trial, be held in custody until Monday when he will be sentenced. He faces a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. Bond was jailed for two-and-a-half years in May 1992 over another corporate deal but was later acquitted at a retrial.

National Express to bid

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the UK bus operator, has joined a consortium that is to bid for three Australian state-owned airports, jointly worth about A\$2 billion (£1 billion). Also in the consortium are The Portland Group, AIDC, the Australian investment house, and Gandel Group, the Australian retailer. Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth airports are to be sold this year as the first tranche of the Australian Government's airport privatisation programme. BAA, the British airports operator, and Manchester Airport, are associated with separate bids.

Protean in US deal

PROTEAN, the rapidly growing laboratory equipment producer, has doubled its presence in the US after agreeing to buy a New York cooling systems manufacturer for up to £16.1 million. The acquisition of FTS Systems, Protean's most expensive buy to date, has taken the group's gearing from 6.7 per cent to 7.5 per cent, as it takes on borrowings of £6.5 million. To meet the upfront payment of £11.6 million, it is also raising £5.1 million by issuing two million shares at 24.5p each. Its shares held at 25.7p yesterday.

Unilever sales talks

UNILEVER is discussing the sale of its H Leverton subsidiary, which operates a UK dealership for Caterpillar earth-moving equipment, to Finning, the Canadian corporation. Leverton, of Windsor, Berkshire, has UK sales of about £250 million a year and a workforce of 900. Finning's UK subsidiary, based at Cannock, Staffordshire, has been the Caterpillar dealer for the South West, the Midlands, Scotland and Wales since 1983. Unilever is also negotiating to sell Leverton Export and its African subsidiaries to Mansour, an Egyptian group.

Recs seek a phased approach

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY chiefs are studying a plan to delay competition in household supply by up to 18 months.

The scheme, put together by Eastern Group from the views of the 12 regional companies and two Scottish companies, would bring in competition by phases for selected customers rather than all at once as the regulator had planned. It is being examined by the regulator's project co-ordinators for the programme which will enable 25 million households to shop around for electricity.

Offer, the electricity watchdog with ultimate responsibility for the scheme, said that arguments about phasing in competition were being considered but that the project managers needed to see further proposals. It said a decision would be made by the end of the year on how competition would be launched. Offer believes that a phasing would not necessarily delay competition.

Concern has been voiced privately by a number of regional electricity companies over leadership of the scheme. They have said that the technicalities are too great to bring about full competition by the April 1998 deadline.

Birkdale chiefs shun pay

By FRASER NELSON

THE five directors of the Birkdale Group are in work without pay until the marketing group returns a profit. Pre-tax losses deepened from £2.02 million to £2.76 million in the year to March 31.

Kevin Morley, chairman, announced a planing and open offer to raise £2.5 million in an attempt to pay off group debt and return to the dividend list after four years.

Mr Morley has staked more than £1.6 million on Birkdale's recovery, having bought a 9.99 per cent holding and lent the group £945,000 through two of his other companies. After that, Birkdale's management resigned.

Steven Smith, finance director at Kevin Morley Holdings, joined Birkdale as managing and finance director in June. He has a 5.6 per cent stake worth £369,000.

Birkdale's sales fell 10 per cent to £13.2 million in the past financial year. Surplus properties led to write-offs of £2 million, taking the loss per share from 2.0p to 2.8p.

Butterfield Securities, the group's newly appointed broker, is placing 41.8 million shares at 6.5p each on September 16. Birkdale's shares rose 4p to 7p yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

Australia S	2.08	Bank	1.92
Austria Sch	17.22	Buy	15.72
Belgium Fr	50.48	Sell	46.18
Canada C	2.25		2.07
Cyprus Cyp	0.748		0.693
Dominican R	9.48		8.65
France Fr	7.48		6.93
Germany M	8.28		7.63
Greece Dr	2.46		2.25
Hong Kong S	384		359
Ireland P	12.82		11.62
Italy Lit	110		101
Japan Yen	1.02		0.94
Malta M	2491		2305
Netherlands Gld	181.00		165.00
New Zealand S	0.526		0.541
Norway Kr	2.738		2.508
Portugal Esc	201.50		185.50
Spain Ptas	163.25		150.25
Switzerland Fr	2.00		1.85
Turkey Lira	135.01		127.01
USA \$	1.648		1.518

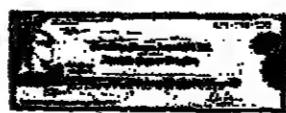
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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR COLIN SOUTHGATE

From actuary to looking after number ones

Two days before the Thorn EMI demerger, Alasdair Murray hears about life on the road with the uncrowned king of Britpop

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

SIR Colin Southgate may be chairman of Thorn EMI, but apart from the picture of Tina Turner on the wall of his office — "my favourite lady", Sir Colin explains — there are few clues that you are in the headquarters of one of the world's largest record companies.

EMI's playlist includes such Britpop luminaries as Blur, Radiohead and Supergrass, but Sir Colin would be the first to admit that his tastes are hardly at the cutting edge of popular music. "I have been known to go to 'alternative' concerts, even without putting my earplugs in," Sir Colin jokes. His personal preference is for Fats Waller, Ella Fitzgerald and classical music.

Sir Colin leaves the record exec image — and fancy salary that totalled more than £7 million last year — to Jim Fifield, EMI's US-based chief executive. He recognises that the company's Young Turks are the ones to hunt out the new talent. "I am not that skilled," he explains. "You have to give the guys who do that job the freedom to choose. More importantly, they must have the freedom to fail." But it is in the EMI half of the company, of which Sir Colin has been chairman for seven years, that he sees his future after the company demerger on Monday.

Artists must be allowed to pursue their own strategies

The Thorn rentals side of the business, which runs the Radio Rentals and Crazy George chains, will have the benefit of Sir Colin's services as chairman for a further year. After that, the £1.5 billion company will have to make its own way in the world. Sir Colin, meanwhile, will be concentrating on plotting the future of the £5 billion EMI.

However, ahead of demerger, Sir Colin had an enjoyable week cashing in share options. Last Wednesday he made a paper profit of £2 million by exercising 179,000 options, although he continues to hold the shares, and then on Thursday cashed in options worth £1.25 million. Ironically, Thorn shares kept another 44p, to 1833p, yesterday, meaning that Sir Colin could have made quite a few more pounds if he had waited a little longer.

Unlike the concurrent demerger of Hanson, the Thorn EMI split has been well received by the City. Thorn is not laden with heavily indebted businesses, and both arms look well positioned to continue growing in their niche markets. "It's been a fascinating project because these were two separate organisations that should never have been put together in the first place," Sir Colin says. "But I will feel emotional when it is finally completed because I love working here and I love the people whom I have worked with."

Sir Colin has spent 12 years at Thorn gradually slimming down the sprawling conglomerate that once owned businesses

ranging from Kenwood kitchen appliances to a bomb fuse manufacturer.

He grew up in New Malden, south London, and left school after his A levels to begin work as a trainee actuary. But he admits he was quickly bored by the profession and after a couple of years was talked into moving across to the growing computer industry — by a calculator salesman he met in a pub. He spent the next ten years at ICT (later ICL), the computer firm, before setting up his own company, Software Sciences, when he was 32. In 1979 he sold the company to BOC for £8.5 million, transferring as part of the deal to become head of BOC computer services. Three years later he negotiated the sale of the division to Thorn for £17.5 million, acting first as a consultant before becoming chief executive of the IT division.

But he insists that he did not move to Thorn with ambitions of scaling the boardroom heights. "I had sworn I would never work for another large company," he says. "But slowly I became sucked in and discovered that I enjoyed working for Thorn." He credits Sir William Barlow, who was chairman when he first arrived, with arousing his enthusiasm.

Sir Colin believes his experience in the computer industry has served his broader business career well. "You learn that

measurements are the undisputed drivers of business, but, at the same time, you have to give management the freedom to run each of the businesses."

The decision to stay on with EMI after demerger is based on the fact that Sir Colin has always felt more comfortable with this side of the business.

"EMI is absolutely a people business," he explains. "The company itself is not the brand, rather it is the artist, whether it is Shostakovich or Tina Turner."

Part of the City's enthusiasm for the demerger stems from the takeover rumours that have swirled around EMI for the past 18 months. Freed from the shackles of the less attractive rentals business, some observers believe that it is only a matter of time before a Seagram or Sony pounces on the independent EMI. The attraction for potential buyers has much to do with the company's rich heritage that has bequeathed an impressive backlist of artists.

EMI celebrates its centenary next year so it is perhaps not surprising that its playlist — from Maria Callas to Blur, via Elgar, Cliff Richard and the Beatles — reads like a Who's Who of 20th-century music. Its famous trademark — the painting of *His Master's Voice* by Barraud — dates from 1899. By 1906, the Gramophone Company, as EMI started life, was already making 60 per cent of its profits outside the UK. Even the first HMV shop, the music retailing division that will continue to be part of EMI after the demerger, first opened in Oxford Street, London, 75 years ago. The nostalgic would, therefore, have much to lament



Sir Colin Southgate believes in an independent EMI and says: "I am very passionate about EMI and will feel that I have failed if this fantastic asset is squandered"

if the company's fine tradition is swallowed up by one of the many foreign media giants rumoured to be circling the company.

Although Sir Colin could just be talking up the price, he seems to have a genuine belief that EMI can survive as an independent entity, provided that it takes a distinctly non-nostalgic approach to the future. "I am very passionate about EMI and will feel that I have failed if this fantastic asset is squandered," he says. "Obviously, if someone comes along and offers a huge premium above our planned double-digit growth rate, I will have to accept the deal. But I am quite convinced that we can stay independent on the basis of our performance." He adds: "Fortunately, most of the potential bidders have shareholders, who are not going to be pleased if they overpay."

Equally, Sir Colin emphasises that he does not see a great deal of overlap between the music industry and other media businesses. "There is some relationship between music and film, for instance, in that they both involve creativity and risk," he explains. "But music ultimately consists of individuals, and artists must be allowed to pursue their own strategies."

He is also forthright about the future of the relationship between artists and record companies, hinting that it is the legal profession that is at the root of the breakdown of some relationships, most famously in the battle between George Michael and Sony, which ended in court.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

He says: "The control of contracts is in the hands of very few lawyers, and they set the standard for the next contract. If they don't get it right, it damages the career of the artist. The system can only work if there is give and take on both sides." Not surprisingly, the process of planning the

demerger has eaten heavily into Sir Colin's normal working week. "I try desperately to keep Friday evening for myself, but at the moment it is not unusual for the courier to arrive with more documents and drag me out of bed at midnight."

With Thorn EMI operating a genuinely global business, Sir Colin's business weeks inevitably need careful ordering. He times his Thorn board commitments to coincide with his other activities — as a director of the Bank of England for instance — ensuring that he spends the whole week in Britain. In other weeks, he follows a hectic travel schedule to keep in touch with the company's far-flung subsidiaries. When he does relax, he admits it is the garden that attracts the most

attention. But he also enjoys watching cricket and rugby and, although it is something of a misnomer, "friendly bridge".

August was probably not the most staff-friendly time to organise a major shake-up of the business, and Sir Colin admits that it has thrown his holiday arrangements into disarray. The younger members of staff, who have children of school age, have taken priority in the scramble for slots, leaving the older staff to hold the fort. Sir Colin faces a few more weeks at his desk before he finally escapes next month. "Then," he says, "it will be back to the grindstone. Back on the road, first to New York and then to Nashville..."

Just for a moment, Sir Colin seems truly to fit the part.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Swindon's steel 'spider' acts as icon for high-tech design

Joanna Pitman admires the structural symbolism of Renault's parts centre

Remember the 1984 James Bond film *With a View to a Kill*, in which Roger Moore finds himself at the foot of the Eiffel Tower embarking on one of those dotty car chases in pursuit of an evil-looking Grace Jones? Moore is forced to hijack a Renault family saloon taxi, which he proceeds to drive with classic Bondian whimsy and astonishing carelessness, losing first the entire roof to a low road barrier and then the back wheels to a wildly swerving car — driven by a Parisian with a bad case of *rage de route*, presumably. The winner out of all this seems to be Renault, which in spite of providing a car with all the apparent structural durability of a matchbox, managed an impressive feat of product placement throughout the film and also lured its chief nasty, played by Christopher

Walken, to locate his malevolent microchip manufacturing centre at Renault UK's National Parts Distribution Centre near Swindon.

The building is a sensational steel structure, rather like an enormous robotic spider, designed by Sir Norman Foster. It was opened in 1983 and has become a symbol of Sir Norman's high-tech structural expressionism. In its first year it won the Civic Trust Award, the *Financial Times* Architecture at Work Award and the Structural Steel design Award.

The Renault Group clearly keeps a sharp eye on all aspects of its corporate appearance. In Swindon the firm decided it wanted a building that would promote

the "technologically advanced image" of the company extending from its product range across to its working environment, and set its visual aspects committee the task of commissioning a suitable design.

Sir Norman experimented with a range of ideas incorporating the perfect skin and an architectural idiom pared down to an absolute minimum. The result, produced in less than two years and at a budget of £12 million, was one of the earliest examples of industrial building based on a modular structure, in this case with a lightweight suspended roof, looking something like a three-dimensional umbrella.

The unusual framework is made up of 59 hollow tubu-

lar steel masts, each 16 metres high and painted in Renault's corporate egg-yolk yellow, which act as drain pipes from the massive roof area and can be seen at night glowing with "borrowed light" from within.

The building has great vitality and aesthetic appeal. Sir Norman's brief included the requirement to accommodate the anticipated dynamics of change during the building's life. The warehouse consists of 36 modules, each 24 metres square, with translucent panels providing natural daylight. Five further modules accommodate offices, a training school, a showroom and a restaurant, all of which can be moved, reordered and adapted for future requirements.

Sir Norman also designed the furniture, adapting a number of previous designs for adjustable tables and desks, which he had based on elements of NASA's lunar module. Other inspirations for his furniture have come from the chassis of the Lotus racing car and the typical dentist's chair.

Westies Down, the new industrial development area west of Swindon, just off the M4 at Junction 16, is not renowned for its exciting architecture and the Renault centre has become something of a landmark, recently hosting the centenary celebrations of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

On September 14 the building will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm as part of the Civic Trust Heritage Open Days scheme. Inquiries to 0891 800 603.



Renault's parts distribution centre was the HQ for a Bond film super-villain

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STOCK MARKET



KAREN ZAGOR

Good borrowing figures give boost to shares

IT WAS the best and worst of all days in the City yesterday. With blue chip shares setting highs, there was much to celebrate. But volume was so thin that dealers were left nervously wondering how the good run could last.

The market surpassed its previous records yesterday morning on the announcement of an unexpectedly good figure on government borrowing. The FT-SE 100 jumped 33.3 points on release of the data. It added to its gains by the close of trade, ending the day up 35.5 at a record high of 3,872.9. The previous peak, set in April, was 3,858.7.

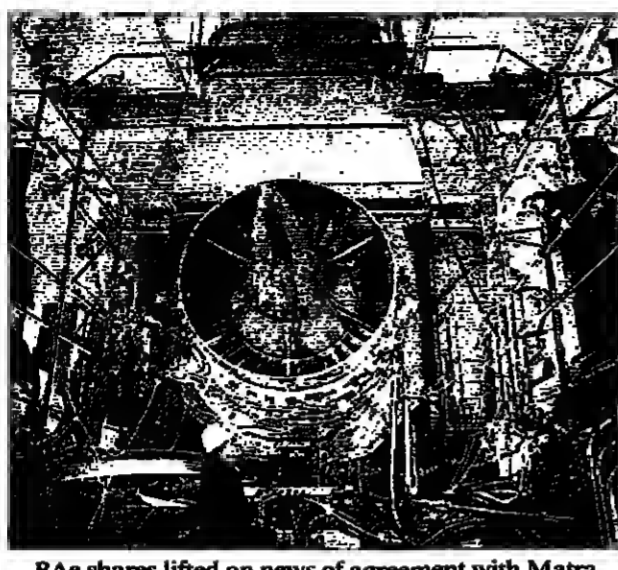
Shares were initially buoyed by the figures for the public sector borrowing requirement that showed that the Government had made a far bigger debt repayment than expected. Other factors contributing to the rise included the expiry of August index options and a strong European bond market. But sentiment had been positive throughout the week, because of a raft of encouraging economic news, such as Thursday's UK inflation figures for last month. A solid opening on Wall Street kept UK equities firm through the afternoon.

Market movements, however, and the performance of individual stocks were exaggerated by thin trading. Volume had been light through most of the week and yesterday was no exception. In contrast, on the futures market, all equity products ended the day on record volume.

The lack of volume in the regular market left dealers uneasy. One leading dealer said: "It was a super day from the point of view that we hit a new high, but there was no volume. There is a shortage of stocks and market-makers, so it is very volatile. No one trusts it. How can you look at a 35-point move on no volume and trust that I'm still not happy, though I would love to be wrong."

Another said: "People are slightly uneasy about the rise and are not willing to chase it. I think the market is being squeezed and it can just as easily get knocked down on something happening, whether related to gilts, inflation or Wall Street."

Thorn EMI was one of the biggest rising blue chips, firming 44.5p to £18.32 in its last day of trading as a unit



Bae shares lifted on news of agreement with Matra

company. On Monday, it will start trading as Thorn plc and EMI plc. Until the close, it was unclear whether the market capitalisation of Thorn would be large enough for it to be included in the FT-SE 100 index. But in the end Thorn was deemed large enough to join the blue chips.

In the process, it ousted Cookson from the group of BAD news for Bakyrchik Gold sent the shares tumbling 10 per cent. The shares closed at 293p, down 32p. The company was part of a consortium negotiating to develop the Kazakstan Vasilkovskoye gold deposit. The decline followed news that the negotiating period had expired.

Leading stocks. Shares in Cookson ended the day 2.5p easier at 248.5p. When the new Thorn and EMI shares open on Monday, the predicted price for Thorn is estimated at 400p to 420p. Estimates for EMI range from £13.80 to £14.25.

In the same sector, Reuters advanced 10p to 762p in spite of going ex dividend. The shares have been ebullient in recent weeks amid speculation that a bid may be made for the

firm though the day as rumors circulated that Hays Group might turn its attention to the company after missing out on Christian Salvesen.

Securicor is seen as an attractive target because it owns a sizeable stake in Cellnet and also has a large industrial side that is making poor profits. Shares in the company advanced 11p to 279p, and dealers said a bid would probably value the company at about £1 above the current share price.

Shares in British Aerospace were lifted on news that the company had reached an agreement to form a joint venture with Matra, of France, to create Europe's biggest guided weapons business. The stock closed at 964p, up 11p.

Airtours ascended 1p to 588p after announcing a £25 million cruise ship acquisition. Bank stocks have been strong throughout the week in a squeeze attributed partly to generally positive interim reports for the sector, partly to a number of shares going ex-dividend and partly to encouraging expectations for interest rates.

Among the winners, HSBC gained 24p to £11.74. Abbey National rose 9p to 602p. Royal Bank of Scotland added 8p to 517p, and Standard Chartered improved 14p to 717p.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Glaxo Wellcome benefited from US interest, rising 15p to 907p, but negative sentiment continued to hurt British Biotech, which lost 5p to 193p. Profit-taking contributed to an 11p drop in Chiroscience to 397p.

GILT-EDGED: UK Treasuries started on a firm note, helped by a good performance by German bunds, and were given an extra boost by the PSBR data. Dealers said there was some selling at the higher levels in an otherwise quiet market.

In the futures pit, the September issue of the long gilt ended the day up 1/32 at 108 1/4. Volume was average for this time of year, at 40,000. The Treasury 3 per cent 2000 ended 1/2 higher to 103 1/2, but the Treasury's 8 per cent 2005 improved 1/16 to 99 1/16.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks followed the bond market to moderate gains in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 22.56 points to 5,588.34.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others with their respective values and changes.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent stock issues including AND International, Alzheim, Alzheim, Amer Opps U Ln, and others with their respective values and changes.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Calm Energy n/p, Ivern West Uts n/p, and others with their respective values and changes.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock changes including Perna, Euro Leisure, Micro Focus, and others with their respective values and changes.

TEMPUS A golden oldie

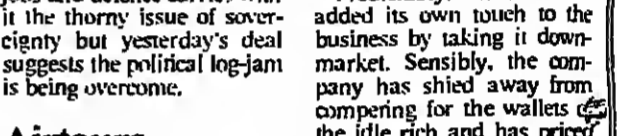
THE City will sound a last hurrah for the silly season on Monday when it awards a huge premium to a company that repackages and sells old recordings of Beatles' tunes. EMI Group, of course, sells a few other recordings besides anthologies of Sixties hits. But it is worth asking why the demerged EMI should be valued at 25 times its historic earnings.

Even that figure looks conservative to some brokers who believe the music business will shortly be gobbled up by MCA at £10 per share. The optimistic scenario looks at the benchmark of Polygram, which trades at about 24 times historic earnings and twice the value of its sales. That compares with EMI's earnings multiple of 25.4 and sales multiple of over 21 times. Leaving aside the issue of whether EMI should fetch a premium to Polygram on fundamentals - the Dutch

company earns better margins from its music business than does EMI - there is a nagging concern over the long-term earnings quality of a business that depends on past successes for current and future earnings.

The difficulty is that EMI will not disclose its dependency on sales and royalties from old recordings by the Beatles and Rolling Stones. Nor is it clear that EMI or its competitors are promoting talent that can produce not just chart hits this year but royalties from the backlist ten years hence. Clearly, the sale of a remastered Beatles' recordings will make more profit than a new song from an artist launched this year, taking into account advance royalties, promotion and marketing costs. If EMI wants investors to take a long-term view it needs to disclose how many gold records are being shelved out of the vaults.

LEADERS CATCH UP



are good reasons for them to do so. For most of this year the FT-SE 100 has stumbled because of fears about the bond market.

The hundred leading shares include a lot of banks, insurers and utilities that would respond negatively to interest rate shocks. In contrast the smaller industrial mid-market stocks

initially did well but suffered badly from Wall Street filters. The currency and bond markets have already absorbed fears about Labour and a series of profit warnings have released most of the bad news about destocking in manufacturing. Buying shares after the September reporting season might be too late.

losing out in the fight for customers in the Middle East and Far East. In Europe, cross-border mergers have been impeded for political reasons. Takeovers mean lost jobs and defence carries with it the thorny issue of sovereignty but yesterday's deal suggests the political log-jam is being overcome.

Airtours

PICTURE yourself on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean. It is two days from the next landfall, the air is a bit chilly for a swim in the pool and you have finished reading your Jeffrey Archer. You are getting bored, so what do you do? You spend money.

That is the financial logic of running a cruise business and Airtours, desperate to boost its margins, has embraced the cruise concept and made it its own. The vessel acquired yesterday, Song of Norway, will boost the Airtours annual cruise capacity by 50 per cent to 150,000 passengers. It is a small percentage of the 3 million or so people who go on holiday with Airtours but they will contribute a much larger proportion of the annual profit.

Predictably, Airtours has added its own touch to the business by taking it downmarket. Sensibly, the company has shied away from competing for the wallets of the idle rich and has priced its holidays at less than half the £1,400 of a typical cruise package.

Even so, Airtours will earn a much bigger margin from selling cruises than Spanish hotel packages where the company might earn just £10-£20 for every £500 holiday. On top of that, every extra penny spent by the customer goes into the Airtours pit. Of course, others will soon pile into the market and the public may get bored of floating bingos but Airtours should make good money while the sun shines.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Table of stock movers including Nynex Cable, Azlan, Lloyds TSB, and others with their respective values and changes.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, CRUDE OILS, and others with their respective values and changes.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life insurance options including various policies and their respective values and changes.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, and others with their respective values and changes.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates including Base Rate, Discount Rate, and others with their respective values and changes.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits including Currency, Dollar, and others with their respective values and changes.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Gold, and others with their respective values and changes.

DOLLAR RATE

Table of dollar rates including various currencies and their respective values and changes.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates including various currencies and their respective values and changes.

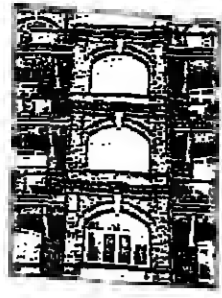
FT-SE VOLUMES

Table of FT-SE volumes including various stocks and their respective trading volumes.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including various companies and their respective values and changes.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page with text like 'This could...', 'Hey bi...', 'spende...', 'try a...', 'new dea...', and 'Smoke get...'.



FREEHOLDS 30

How to keep your own house in order

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTMENTS 31

Options for savers hit by low rates



This could be the end of the negative equity trap as we know it

Fear of negative equity is fuelling first-time buyer demand for protection against future falls in house prices. Just hours after the Halifax announced details this week of the first mortgage guaranteeing protection against negative equity, branches were receiving inquiries from potential buyers. An official advertising campaign starting today is certain to generate more interest. The Halifax is guaranteeing to pay off the debts of first-time buyers who find themselves trapped in negative equity if they want to move house between five and

ten years hence. Buyers will not have to take their debt with them to their new property or pay off the shortfall before they can move. The Halifax says that it is prepared to offer the guarantee because it is confident that rising house prices should make negative equity a thing of the past in five years. Other analysts share the Halifax's optimism. Barclays Bank said this week that prices could rise 5 per cent to 10 per cent over the next two years, freeing many of the 1.1 million people still trapped in negative equity. Rob Thomas, of UBS, estimates

that the number of households whose home is worth less than the mortgage fell in the second quarter of this year by nearly 350,000 to just over 750,000. But first-time buyers, vital to the housing recovery, apparently remain unconvinced and are keen to protect themselves against the phenomenon of negative equity that has overshadowed the market for the past three years. Analysts admit that the housing recovery remains fragile. Higher interest rates, threatened again this week by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, could still derail

recovery and continuing job insecurity makes the Tories' much vaunted "feel-good" factor elusive. The Halifax First Time Buyer guarantee mortgage is on offer only at the standard variable rate, currently 6.99 per cent. It comes with £1,000 cashback and a free valuation and borrowers can take out a mortgage of 95 per cent of the property's value. They can borrow between £25,000 and £250,000. Anyone borrowing more than 75 per cent of the property's value has to take out mortgage indemnity insurance, which protects the lender. All

borrowers have to take out Halifax contents and buildings insurance. Rival lenders reacted cautiously to the Halifax's announcement, pointing out that the new mortgage would be of no help to the 750,000 existing borrowers still trapped in negative equity. These people have to rely on rising prices or existing negative equity schemes launched by lenders over the past two years. These normally involve transferring the debt to a new property to allow borrowers to move. Typically, the maximum total loan on the new property is 125 per cent of the

property's value including negative equity from the previous property. Lenders apply strict income and creditworthiness criteria before allowing borrowers to take on this debt. The Nationwide Building Society has accepted between 500 and 1,000 applicants onto its negative equity scheme since its launch two years ago. It said: "We have the lowest mortgage rate on the high street at the moment and we believe house prices are picking up."

SARA MCCONNELL

Hey big spender — try a new deal

Cut costs, say Anne Ashworth and Sara McConnell, to save

You have returned from your holiday, having been lulled into some overspending by the local cuisine of the Dordogne, or the bargains in US shopping malls. The evidence of your dining and retail therapy can already be found on the credit card statement on the doormat: nowadays foreign purchases travel home before you at supersonic speed. Your financial situation is not dire. But reducing your outgoings would help you to balance your budget better. Weekend Money suggests ways to cut the rate you are paying on your credit card, your mortgage and boost the return from your savings.

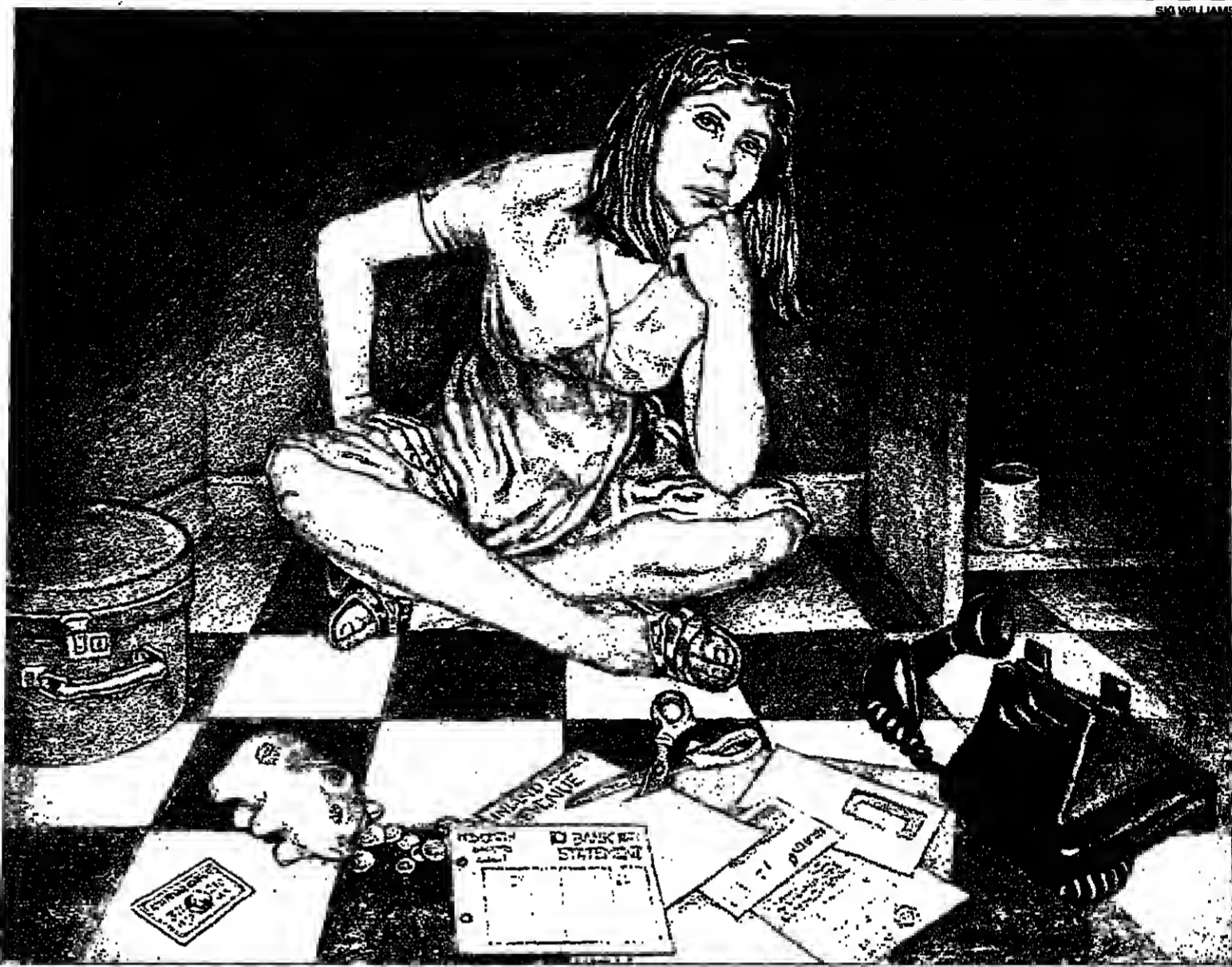
CREDIT CARDS

INERTIA keeps us faithful to our credit cards, a failing that the card companies exploit to make us pay rates four times the bank base rate. If you borrow £1,000 on your Barclaycard for a year, it will cost you £221 in interest. In their defence, the card companies say that 50 per cent of their customers pay off their balances in full each month. However, they do not mention that they earn interest on about 74 per cent of the total amount owing on credit cards. That means that those who do not pay off their balance are also the big spenders. And for them the average annual percentage rate (APR or true rate) is still above 20 per cent, with Barclaycard charging 22.3 per

cent and NatWest Visa, 21.9 per cent. If you are not one of the saintly 50 per cent, you can save by switching to one of the new lower interest cards from American companies now moving into the UK market. Examples include the People's Bank card (APR 14.4 per cent) and the RBS Advanta card (15.6 per cent), a joint venture between Advanta, the ninth largest US card company and Royal Bank of Scotland. Neither card has a fee. The target for these US cards are those who borrow frequently, but are, at the same time, creditworthy.

Home-grown lower interest rate cards include the GM Card (20.9 per APR, no fee), the Frizzell Card (16.1 per cent APR, £11 fee) and the Robert Fleming Save & Prosper cards. Here you can choose between a card with a 14 per cent APR, including a £12 fee, and a fee-free card with a 11.2 per cent APR. If you opt for the latter, you will not, however, enjoy the maximum 56-day interest-free period that is the major boon of most cards. The RBS Mastercard boasts a 14.5 per cent APR (no fee) and also has no interest-free period.

When applying for a new card those who have a substantial amount owing on their current card should ask whether there is a "balance transfer option". Your new card provider will clear your debt to your former card company. You are obliged to repay the money, of course, but you will pay a lower rate of interest.



Bid for Kepit marks start of shake-up

A PARADE the likes of which we only usually see when rivals are bidding for a television franchise is due on Monday (Sarah Jones writes). Middy is the deadline for proposals for control of the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit). So far 11 fund managers, including Fleming, Schroders and Foreign & Colonial, are said to be working on their bids. The board of Kepit will then present and recommend just one proposal to the shareholders — in time for the closing of the hostile bid from TR European Growth (Freg), the rival investment trust, which set the whole ball rolling. Decision time for the 70,000 shareholders is expected near the end of next month. Investors will hope that the board chooses the proposal that gives the best share price — and, if it does not, rival bidders may go public with their proposals. Shareholders will then have to decide whether to stick with the trust. But what does it mean for the sector as a whole? John Szymanski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg, says: "It marks a change in the investment trust sector. Up to now it's been about launching new funds. This shows we are coming into a period of rationalisation."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

WHERE TO PUT YOUR SAVINGS

SAVERS' rates may be at an all-time low. But you can improve your return and perhaps gain from future conversion or merger windfalls by finding new homes for some of your hard-earned savings. You do not need to have thousands of pounds. The Portman Building Society has admitted that it could merge, but is determined to remain a mutual, in spite of the speculation surrounding all the societies that have not announced plans to convert into banks. Meanwhile, it offers a rate of 4.5 per cent on balances of as little as £1. Elsewhere, your rate for this amount could be less than 1 per cent. The Birmingham Midshires Building Society is now on every takeover rumour-monger's lips. The society

holly denies the talk, but it could be worth moving funds into its First Class postal account, which pays undistinguished rates on its minimum balance of £1,000, but becomes more competitive on balances of £5,000 and over. Its First Class account pays 4 per cent gross on balances of between £5,000 and £10,000. The Yorkshire Building Society is seen as another takeover target. The society's First Class access postal account is paying 4.9 per cent gross on balances of between £1,000 and £10,000, while the Mutual Interest one-year term share account is paying 6.25 per cent gross on balances of £1,000 or more until January 1 next year. Cut the mortgage, page 28

Smoke gets in your wallet

When my grandfather sold his house and became a small investor at the age of 75, his bank suggested a handful of shares offering high income. As became clear over the years, most had good cause to sell on high dividend yields. One was different. Its profits and dividends climbed steadily and reliably, year by year, often pleasing, rarely disappointing. This paragon was Imperial Tobacco. Four decades on, public opinion scorns tobacco companies. Their shares are yet more caustically rated and, as shown this year, are subject to shocks whenever events suggest that the health risks of smoking will catch up with them. But some things have scarcely changed. BAT Industries, sole survivor of six British tobacco companies once listed on the Stock Exchange, has raised its dividend and its reported earnings in each of the past four years. Like ICI and Distillers, Imps was created, early this century, by British companies banding together to protect themselves. The idea was to stop rampant American trusts picking them off one by one, as power companies have done this year. It worked. In tobacco, there was a US-UK deal. Imps was to dominate the UK market with Wills, Players and smaller brands. The rest of the world was assigned to a separate company, British American Tobacco. Damages awarded in a Florida court case against BAT triggered the latest market plunge, cutting BAT's market value by nearly 10 per cent. Philip Morris, the US market leader, fell up to



PERSONAL INVESTOR GRAHAM SEARJEANT

14 per cent. This is the latest outbreak of troubles hrewing for decades. Like previous setbacks, it may well be reversed; but they keep coming. Cigarette makers started diversifying by the 1960s, first to absorb bubbling cashflow, increasingly to spread risks beyond tobacco, whose sales seemed destined to decline as mounting deaths made health risks clear. Imps bought into frozen food, crisps, beer and American meats. Some prospered, but tobacco propped up the rest rather than vice versa. A stagnant monopoly being a most attractive business, Imps was eventually bought and broken up by Hanson in one of the smartest takeovers ever. Hanson kept tobacco. Others converted random diversification into a parallel big business. Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro, is now one of the world's top food groups via General Foods, Kraft and Jacobs Suchard. BAT is a top insurer group via Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar and California's Farmers group, which earn two

fifths of profits. These huge groups remain tainted by tobacco. That is why American Brands sold Lucky Strike to BAT, bringing the Florida lawsuit. Millions of non-smoking investors would not touch cigarette-makers. It is now easier to avoid them in collective investments too. While arguments rage over many industries, no serious ethical fund could include tobacco. As a result, markets rate profits a quarter to a third below average. After the latest slide, BAT sells at nine times earnings and yields 6.7 per cent. The discount makes tobacco shares good value for income. No wonder it paid the Rupert family to take Rothmans private. But discounts will stay and could widen. In America, the threat of crippling damages is real. For international groups such as BAT, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco, tobacco remains a growth industry. In East Europe and much of Asia, rising incomes are boosting sales. In declining markets, consolidating cuts costs. The worst setback to tobacco shares came in 1993, when a price war flared in America. Big Tobacco will not want to repeat it. The next stock market test will come when Hanson breaks itself up and relaunches a lean Imperial as a pure tobacco stock. Omens are discouraging, except for one. Seiza, not-so-lean French maker of Gitanes, was privatised 18 months ago. Its shares have since surged 60 per cent, outpacing the index, let alone tobacco majors. If Imperial's new independent life is as happy for investors, it may be because it is short.

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Caroline Merrell on the codebusters who recover tax

Many happy returns from Revenue

BILL SANDERSON

Each year, about 1.4 million people who pay their dues to the Inland Revenue through their pay-as-you-earn scheme, the income tax collection system operated by employers, will end up paying the wrong amount of tax. But most of those who pay tax under schedule E, the PAYE category, would not consider questioning the amount of tax they pay, or take the time to check whether their tax codes were correct.

Many will go on underpaying or overpaying their tax in blissful ignorance until the Inland Revenue picks up the error. An underpayment of tax over a number of years could land an employee with an enormous bill. Unwittingly overpaying tax is equally annoying, as employees have to go through the rigmarole of recovering the tax.

Help is at hand, however, from a number of accountancy firms. Among them is KPMG, which offers companies a workshop on behalf of their employees. The workshop is followed by a "tax clinic" that will attempt to address any problems the employees may have. The cost of the workshop will depend on the number of employees and complexity of the cases examined in the tax clinic.

Elspeth May, tax partner with KPMG, said: "One of the most important things to remember for those on schedule E who employ an accountant is that tax codings are not automatically sent to the accountant. We have to educate our clients to send us their tax codes."

The company also deals with individuals and drops in on companies to help to educate their staff on tax codes. "Around 5 per cent of employees end up having to refer to the Revenue," she added.

The KPMG workshops will explain to employees what their individual allowances are, and how they are calculated. They will also give advice about the tax treatment of benefits in kind, such as company cars, permanent health insurance and permanent medical insurance. Tax aspects of Miras, occupational and personal pensions are also discussed.

Ms May said that many of the mistakes made by the Revenue in tax coding arose because the employee failed to provide up-to-date information — they may have got



married, which could make a difference to their personal allowances, or they may have failed to inform the Revenue about their company car, which is a taxable perk.

Another accountancy organisation that offers individuals help with their tax coding is the Aims partnership based in London. Aims is an association of accountants with 25 offices throughout the UK. The service, which checks tax codes, costs £25.

One of Aims's clients ended up having nearly £10,000 of tax returned from the Revenue. The client was worried that his pay-check seemed somewhat small. Through Aims, he discovered that a number of his work expenses could be claimed for, which he had not realised. His tax code has now been amended, increasing his monthly income by £400.

Kingsley Samson, a practitioner with Aims in Holborn, central London, said: "It is the

KNOW YOUR ALLOWANCES AND PERKS

ALLOWANCES:

Personal allowance — £3,765 (single person under 65)
 Married couple's allowance* — £1,790
 Additional personal allowance* — £1,790
 Lower rate of tax (20 per cent) — charged on taxable income of up to £3,900
 Basic rate of tax (24 per cent) — charged on taxable income of £3,901 to £25,500
 Higher rate of tax (40 per cent) — charged on taxable income of over £25,500

*These allowances, which can be claimed by husbands, wives, single parents or unmarried couples supporting a child, are given at the 15 per cent rate of tax. The allowance is worth £268.50.

PERKS:

Employees are liable to pay tax on benefits in kind, or perks, if they earn more than £8,500. The company car is the most popular benefit. The benefit is based on the list price of the car when it was first registered. The taxable benefit is 35 per cent of the list price, reduced by one third if the car is at least four years old at the end of the tax year. The assessable benefit is reduced by one third where the employee does more than 2,500 miles per annum.

individual's responsibility to check this, not the Government's. A lot of people end up paying up 100 much tax. Some of my colleagues can be somewhat daunting, which puts people off consulting an accountant."

The Inland Revenue says that 99 per cent of claims for repayment of tax are dealt

with within 28 days. Last year the Revenue got the initial tax assessment right for 92 per cent of those on schedule E. This figure fell to 81 per cent for those on schedule D, ie, those who are self-employed or who are pensioners.

As part of its move towards simplification of the tax system, the Revenue this week an-

nounced that it had revamped the tax coding notices it sends out to those who change their tax code each year.

A Revenue spokeswoman said: "As part of a major customer initiative, the new forms have been produced after wide consultation with both the Inland Revenue staff and the public. The resulting

improvements in design and content will benefit the 22 million or so people who pay tax through PAYE. "The forms will give personalised details of the taxable benefits and how they work."

Last month the Revenue embarked on the first stage of its five-year plan to simplify the tax system. The review was announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in the last Budget. The aim of it is to simplify the legislation surrounding the personal taxation regime.

The Revenue has issued a consultation paper, which will set the framework for the review. Interested parties have until the start of November to respond to the paper. The Revenue is then planning to appoint a committee of 40 people drawn from inside and outside the tax profession, to begin the simplification process.

KPMG is on 0171 311 1000
 AIMS is on 0171 831 1138

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Will merger be friendly refuge for savings?

After the announcement of the merger between Refuge Assurance and United Friendly, and news from Refuge that it is to restructure its life fund, *Weekend Money* looks at the implications for policyholders.

Q What sort of policies do the two companies sell?

A Both sell life insurance, pensions and investments to people in their homes, known as the "home service" market. This involves a large sales staff and an extensive network of branches. Many premiums are collected door-to-door on a monthly basis by sales staff.

Q How will policyholders be affected?

A As far as the merger is concerned, policyholders will only be affected by the way the newly merged company, to be known as United Assurance, is managed. However, there will be bonuses for some Refuge policyholders.

Q I have a United Friendly policy. Will I get a bonus?

A No. The two companies will be holding a policy with a financially strong and competitive new company. It is too early to say whether this will be the case. The boards of the two companies admit that there are risks involved in such a merger.

They have hinted that they might establish a separate service company, paid for by the shareholders, which would manage the merger and charge the policyholders a fee for doing so. They claim this would protect policyholders from unnecessary risk and reward shareholders for taking on the burden of risk during the merger.

Q Will Refuge policyholders get a bonus?

A Yes they will, but it is nothing to do with the merger. It is being paid out of the life fund as compensation for the restructuring of Refuge and affects both ordinary and industrial branch policyholders. Industrial branch business includes policyholders who pay regular premiums towards their insurance which is collected through a staff member calling at their home. Ordinary branch policyholders tend to pay for their insurance by direct debit.

Q What are the restructuring proposals?

A At present, Refuge Assurance operates an

industrial branch fund and an ordinary branch fund, and the combined total assets amount to more than £3 billion.

Under the proposals, the long-term business funds of the company will be restructured to comprise an industrial branch fund, an ordinary branch non-profit fund and an ordinary branch with-profit fund.

Industrial branch and ordinary branch with-profit policyholders will share in a one-off special bonus of £101 million, which will give them payouts of anything between £128 and £763 depending on how long they have had their policies in existence. This is designed to compensate them for the loss of assets in their life fund, which will take place during the restructuring.

Q What about shareholders?

A United Friendly shareholders may get a payout in the future from a surplus called the Investment Fluctuation Provision. The company announced that this was worth £145 million and although it will not be paid out straight away, a proportion may in the future be paid into shareholders' funds.

Refuge shareholders will get an enhanced dividend after the Department of Trade and Industry decided to allow £430 million surplus to be apportioned to shareholders. This surplus, known as an orphan asset, grew over many years, often because actuaries were cautious and paid conservative bonuses, and because the first shareholders in the company did not take out their full entitlement to profits because they were allowing the funds to grow.

Refuge has decided to redistribute this surplus after being given permission by the Department of Trade and Industry to do so.

Q I have a general insurance policy. Will I benefit from windfall payouts?

A No, the bonuses only apply to certain types of with-profit life policies. Policyholders of unit-linked investments will miss out on bonuses.

Q What was the cut-off date for eligible policies?

A The special bonus will be added automatically to eligible with-profit policies taken out before August 5. Policyholders will not get the payout in cash. Instead, the sum will be added to their policy and it will be paid out when the policy matures.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

For most households, the mortgage is still the largest monthly bill. Most pay it without question, little realising that their willingness to pay their lender's standard variable rate allows the lender to offer cut-price deals to new customers.

Remortgaging, that is switching your loan to another lender, or transferring to another special deal with your existing lender should enable you substantially to reduce your outgoings.

For example, although the cost of fixed-rate loans may have risen, you can still save up to £4,000 by remortgaging from a variable rate to a fixed rate for just two years, according to John Charcol, the independent mortgage adviser.

Ian Darby, director of John Charcol, calculates that on a

Cut mortgage repayments and save up to £4,000

£50,000 interest-only mortgage you would be paying £291.25 a month (excluding Miras) on the standard 6.99 per cent variable rate. But if you remortgaged with a fixed rate for two years at 4.99 per cent (on offer from various lenders including NatWest) you would pay £207.91. This is a monthly saving of £83.34, which adds up to £2,000 over two years. After deducting £750 for the estimated costs of remortgaging, your saving would be £1,250. The savings would double for a £100,000

mortgage to £4,000 over two years. After estimated costs of £850, you would save £3,150. Of course, these figures assume interest rates will stay the same. If interest rates go up, you do even better. If rates go down you save less.

These estimated remortgage costs will not cover the costs of any redemption penalties associated with the original mortgage, nor will they cover the costs of mortgage indemnity guarantee premium. MFG protects the lender against the

costs of repossession, if the borrower runs in to trouble.

The estimate does include legal expenses, revaluation costs and land registry fees, all of which have to be taken in to account by those remortgaging. Mr Darby believes the entire exercise takes about six weeks to complete.

Anyone who wishes to remortgage should see their existing lender, making it clear that they will depart if not offered a better deal. For instance, the Halifax Building

Society will allow its existing borrowers to transfer to new discounted and fixed rate loans, for a fee of £200. For example, borrowers can save money by transferring to a discounted rate of 5.79 per cent or a two-year fixed rate of 4.99 per cent. However, the Halifax will not waive the redemption penalties for those considering transferring to another Halifax loan.

In contrast, Abbey National will not allow its existing customers to switch to more advantageous fixed rates. The Abbey also announced two weeks ago that it was reducing cashbacks on remortgages in an attempt to discourage remortgaging at the expense of those moving house.

SARA MCCONNELL AND CAROLINE MERRELL

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3 M _____ Surname _____
 (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)
 All forenames _____
 Address in full _____
 Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____ DAY MONTH YEAR

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the current Prospectus
 Signature _____ Date _____

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian
 M _____ Surname _____
 (Mr Mrs Miss Ms)
 All forenames _____

6 If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below.
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NATIONAL SAVINGS

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John Merrell 15/50

Banish the fear of negative equity

The Halifax's new negative equity scheme for first-time buyers shows that the society believes its own confident pronouncements on the state of the housing market (page 27). But potential borrowers beg to differ.

The 25-year-olds who listen to Oasis are not impressed by statistics showing that rates are at their lowest since the Beales were first in the charts. These reluctant buyers are much more concerned about negative equity, whose damaging effects are everywhere in evidence.

This dread explains the interest already displayed in the Halifax's scheme guaranteeing to protect buyers from the negative equity demon.

But inquirers will find that the society's promise to keep the bogymen at bay comes at a price higher than the aver-



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

age first-time buyer deal. Elsewhere, you can get cashbacks of as high as 3 per cent, worth £2,100 on a £70,000 loan.

The Halifax offers a flat amount of £1,000 on its negative equity loan, which buys rather fewer bits at Ikea.

Borrowers will pay the standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent only, enjoying no discounts or fixed rates.

First-time buyers who take up other Halifax deals can expect discounts of 2 per cent or

more. Critics of the negative equity protection scheme may argue that it encourages buyers to embark on home ownership with little forethought, knowing that Daddy Halifax will rescue them from a slump. The reverse is true.

The Halifax scheme bristles with details designed to impress young people with the responsibilities of home ownership. You can borrow no more than 95 per of the value of the property which

means that, if prices fall by 5 per cent, you lose your deposit. Moreover, you cannot rely on the society's pledge to repay the loan in full until 2001, at the earliest.

Those same critics will also argue that the Halifax could have launched the scheme when the negative equity numbers were multiplying, rather than shrinking. The Halifax has rightly calculated that, while the problem may have diminished, the fear remains.

Bad habits

BANK base rates last fell in June but not all savers' rates followed suit. Some currencies, for example, delayed curbing their rates until this month. The Abbey National, meanwhile, says that it has not yet made a final decision on the issue.

The Doctor Watsons

among us may believe that Abbey is waiting to see whether Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, gains the upper hand in his dispute with the Chancellor, leading to an increase in the base rate. There is, however, a different explanation for the lack of activity at Abbey's head office at 222b Baker Street. Even those without the detective powers of Sherlock Holmes can clearly see that the Abbey is delaying the change to retain former savers of the National & Provincial after the takeover.

Abbey has already managed to upset one group of N&P savers, as we report in Society Watch (page 34). Those investors who used to receive a monthly income from their Tessa have been told that the Abbey's systems do not permit such a payment. A weak excuse, I think.

Workers gain pension power

Caroline Merrell
on changes that give employees more say

Greater employee involvement in pension funds has been one result of the plundering of the Mirror Group schemes. Under the Pensions Act 1995, which aims to ensure better monitoring and protection of pension assets and comes into effect next year, scheme members will have the right to select a third of the trustees of a pension fund. Trustees look after the assets in a trust and safeguard the interests of beneficiaries.

Their role is likely to grow over the next few years as larger pension funds shift from a final-salary to a money-purchase basis, where the pension received by the employee is directly related to the performance of the fund manager. In a final-salary scheme, the employer guarantees to pay a pension linked to a percentage of final salary.

Among the company schemes that have switched emphasis from a final-salary to a money-purchase basis are those run by Legal & General, Zeneca, WH Smith, and Barclays.

Those who are interested in taking on the role of trustee do not necessarily have to be an expert on pensions, but they can be imprisoned if they fail in their duties, so training is essential. Nigel O'Sullivan, an investment analyst with Bacon & Woodrow, the firm of actuaries, points to America, where trustees have been sued for giving the wrong investment advice.

The Pensions Management Institute offers a certificate in basic pension knowledge. The National Association of Pension Funds also offers a course.



Janet Nangle's interest in pensions prompted her to become a member trustee of Zeneca's scheme

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JANET NANGLE, 34, a reporting accountant with Zeneca, has been a member trustee for two years. She became involved because she was interested in pensions. Mrs Nangle says: "There is a lot more work than I thought. Some of it is very interesting." Although based in Manchester, she has to attend five meetings a year in London. "It has been particularly busy over the past 12 months because of the Pensions Act. As well as the meetings, I have to do a lot of reading in my own time."

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Sara McConnell outlines the potential pitfalls of progressing from a leaseholder under new legislation

Leaseholders who escape the clutches of rogue or incompetent landlords by buying the freehold of their apartment block could be storing up even bigger problems for themselves with defective leases or badly worded company rules.

But leaseholders who do not join with their neighbours to buy could equally find they have made an expensive mistake. One leaseholder who held back found himself with a bill for £95,000 from his new landlords when he wanted to extend his lease.

Hundreds of people are now taking advantage of the three-year-old legislation giving them the right to buy freeholds. Widespread evidence of harassment and intimidation from landlords has encouraged people to buy.

According to a survey carried out by the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service for its forthcoming annual report, more than 3,000 leaseholders have either bought their freehold or are in the process of doing so. But Peter Haler, chief executive of the LEAS, says: "People see the purchase of the freehold as the end of the story. But before they buy, they must think about putting a company together and whether to change the leases."

Failure to do this could mean a deadlock for new freeholders if one flatowner does not want to pay for repairs or refuses to agree to changes to leases, and there is no means of enforcing the majority view. So what should you check as part of your freehold purchase? Here are some of the commonest problem areas:

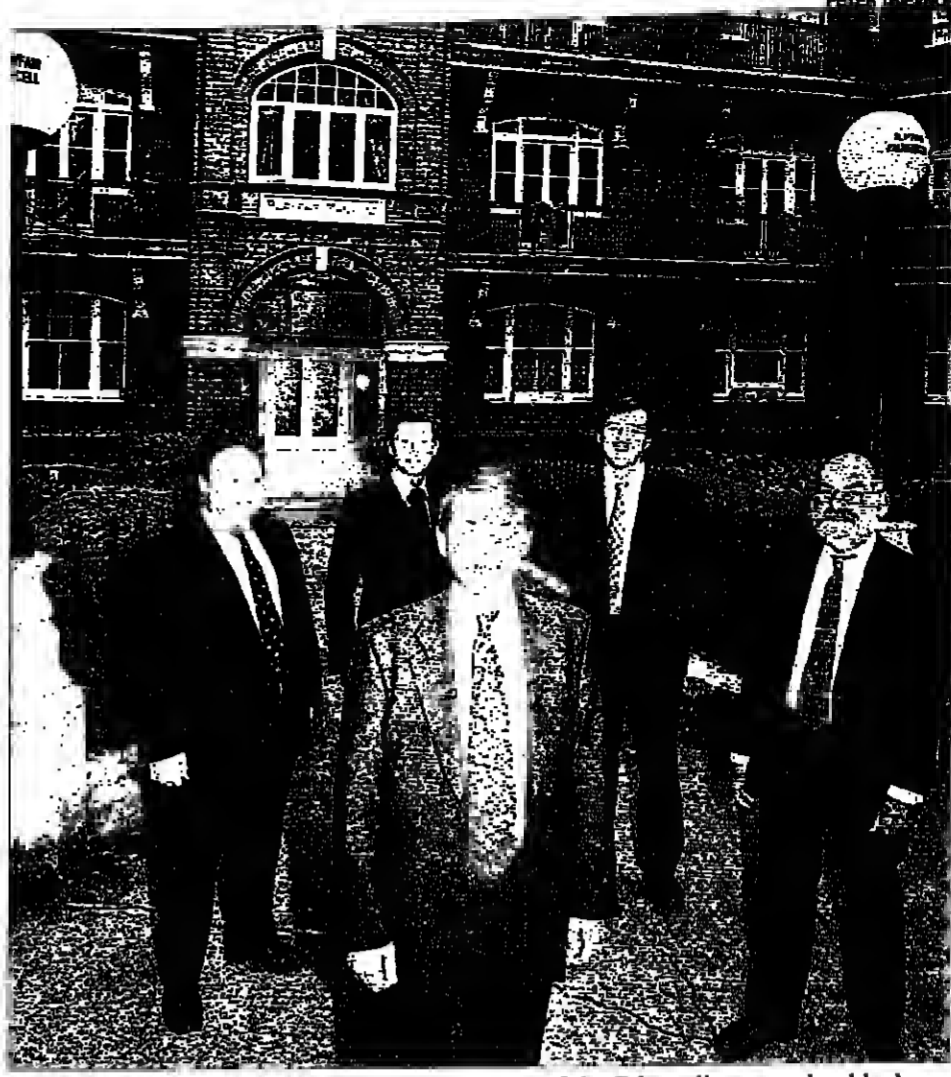
The Freehold Company: When you buy your freehold, you are actually buying a share of the freehold — through a company set up for the purpose. The company, whose only shareholders are you and your fellow leaseholders, becomes the freeholder. You still have leases setting out your rights and responsibilities but because you are also freeholders you should be able to control what is in these leases. Avoid setting up any arrangement where you own your flat outright as a freeholder. Lenders will normally refuse to mortgage such a property because there would be no arrangements for maintenance and repair of the common parts of the building.

The solicitor helping you to buy your freehold should also advise you on setting up your company. "Off-the-shelf" companies are sold by Companies House along with ready-made memorandums and articles of association. But you need to ensure that you have established workable rules on necessary voting majorities, so that the majority is not held to ransom by one flatowner. Each flatowner should ideally have one share which can only be sold with the property.

Leases: Many leases are so badly drafted that their covenants are unenforceable or so short that your property is unsaleable. You should discuss the option of either granting yourselves new, longer, leases or changing parts of them.

Money: One problem of owning your freehold is that it can potentially set neighbour against neighbour. Just one recalcitrant flatowner lands someone with the unpleasant task of chasing for money. One way of avoiding this is to appoint an agent to collect on your behalf.

Non-joiners: Under the 1993 Leasehold Reform and Urban Development Act, two thirds of qualifying tenants have to agree to buy the freehold. This means a majority can go ahead and become the landlord of those who do not want to join or do not qualify.



Richard Williams, right, with fellow directors of the Edwardian mansion blocks

For those willing to keep their own house in order

Buying the freehold of the Edwardian mansion blocks that surround Queen's Club Gardens in Barons Court, London, was not a job for the faint-hearted. It involved co-ordinating leaseholders in 558 flats in 28 blocks and long negotiation with the landlord before the deal finally went through three years ago. Now a company set up by the residents has taken over the management and oversees the running of everything from drains and roofs to the collection of service charges.

Richard Williams is one of six directors on the board of the company. He is also on the committee of the Federation of Private Residents' Associations. He freely admits that he and several of his fellow directors have the advantage of being lawyers, a useful qualification for picking one's way through the minefield of company, landlord and tenant law. "No one can do this unless they employ their own solicitor. Solicitors charge by time so it is well worth being able to save costs by saying, 'we'll serve papers and so on.' They also had the advantage that their landlord was willing to sell and had agreed a price by negotiation."

Before setting up the company formally, the prospective board members "did a bit of work" on the memorandum and articles. Like most management companies, the company was bought "off the shelf", with standard memorandum and articles. But the residents wanted to make sure these were drawn up to allow most resolutions to be passed by a simple majority of shareholders.

The company has an annual meeting, although Mr Williams says that many residents do not attend. "This could be a problem for companies whose rules require a quorum. Mr Williams cautions, unless they can vote by proxy, as at Queen's Club Gardens."

As in many blocks managed by residents, some of the leaseholders in Queen's Club Gardens either did not want to join in with the purchase or did not qualify. But they have their own residents' association to represent their views to the company. So far there have been no major problems with collecting service charges, particularly as the level of charges is controlled by the residents.

To avoid any possible unpleasant confrontation, the company has appointed a managing agent. One drawback of the leases (which have not been changed) is that there is no provision for building up a sinking fund. Instead, service charges include an element for future provision, which helps to iron out big outlays in some years.

The key to running a management company, Mr Williams believes, is to have "a lot of people putting in a lot of time". He adds: "Buying the freehold won't make service charges go away but you have much more control over them and over hiring and firing."

SARA MCCONNELL

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Handwritten signature: J. Williams



How low? The downward pressure on interest rates has meant an end to vintage times for many elderly savers

Options that could spell last of the summer whine

Sarah Jones looks at the choices for savers whose income has been hit by low interest rates

If life is hard for savers these days, it is doubly hard for those trying to generate a monthly income from their savings. It's even grimmer if you are elderly and want to think medium rather than long-term, and if you are adverse to taking any risk. While there is no magic wand to dispel the problem, there are places you can go to find better returns.

There is no attempt by banks and building societies to capture that market of retired people ever more desperate to better the monthly income they can get from their savings. Indeed, a monthly interest account from a bank and building society generally means you are getting around 0.2 per cent less than you would do on the same account if you took the annual option.

So finding the best monthly rates available is simply an act of finding the best rates full stop. On a balance of £10,000 the current best rates are from the Scarborough 100-day account, which pays 6.25 per cent gross (6.5 per cent for the annual option), First National's 90-day account at 6.03 per cent (6.2 per cent annual), Bristol & West's Postal Deposit at 5.7 per cent (5.85 per cent annual) and Coventry's Postal 50 at 5.6 per cent (5.75 per cent annual). Building societies will also offer a monthly option on their longer-term, fixed-rate bonds. At Norwich & Peterborough, for example, the five-year Fixed Interest Bond pays 7.35 per cent gross (7.6 per cent annual).

Since analysts forecast another base rate cut, which will shave even more off savings rates, and that even when rates climb they will never reach the heady days of 15 per cent, it pays to take some money elsewhere. Where you go depends in part on your attitude to risk, your age and how much income you need to generate. You need to be realistic about the level of income you can get. If you take

too much income you will reduce your capital. You may be at a stage in life where capital protection is not important. However, your capital may need to last another 30 years.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

The best place to start for absolute security if you are over 60 is National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond. It involves a five-year investment of £500-£50,000, but the income is paid gross each month at a fixed rate. The current bond pays 7 per cent. Last month Abbey National launched a Retirement Saving Bond to compete with National Savings. While the annual interest rate of 7.25 per cent is higher, there is little improvement in the monthly rate of 7.02 per cent. Minimum investment is £2,500.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

These are usually provided by a large life assurance company. Your capital is returned at the end of the term and you get a fixed income. However, they are not suitable for non-taxpayers. Income is paid net and the tax is not reclaimable. Again, the monthly option pays less than if you take income annually. The current best rates on £10,000 for five years are Financial Assurance, at 6.12 per cent, Premium Life, offering 6.1 per cent, and AIG Life, at 5.93 per cent.

GILTS

Savers should also consider gilts, which are basically a loan to the Government. They are available from the Post Office, though they only pay out twice a year.

Gilts have a nominal value of £100, which is redeemed at the end of the term. Therefore, if you pay more than £100, you know that you are going to get back less than you paid for them.

However, in the meantime you are getting a fixed, high rate of income. For example, currently available is an issue called Treasury 7 per cent 2001, which gives a yield of 7.08 per cent for the next five years, and, because they actually cost £98, a redemption yield of 7.21 per cent.

Treasury 10 per cent 2003 gives interest of 8.83 per cent but, because they cost £113, a redemption yield of 7.51 per cent.

HIGH INCOME BONDS

There is now a raft of Guaranteed Equity Bonds, which are riskier because although they guarantee to protect your capital, growth depends on stock market performance. They include High Income Bonds, which guarantee an income but no growth, and can erode capital. Financial Assurance has a version promising 10.0 per cent a year, with a monthly option of 0.84 per cent. You get back the original investment provided the FT-SE 100 index and S&P 500 do not fall over the five-year term.

WITH-PROFITS BONDS

These are relatively low-risk since the annual bonuses are allocated even if the fund is not doing well, and offer a monthly income option. Interest is declared 12 months ahead so that you know what you can take up to that amount. An extra benefit is that income of up to 5 per cent of the original investment will not count towards the age-related tax allowance. Taking too high an allowance will affect the growth, and if there is no growth, inflation will eat into your capital.

UNIT TRUSTS AND PEPS

Finally there will be the leap into equities, through unit trusts and Peps. While the income may start off low, you should also get substantial growth, which means income will improve. Most dividends are paid biannually so how much income you get from month to month will fluctuate.

For monthly income, Peps analysis BEST Investment recommend the Credit Suisse High Income Portfolio, with a current yield of 4.3 per cent. Perpetual High Income Pep (4.2 per cent) and for those concerned only about income the Guinness Flight Income Share Pep (8.2 per cent).

There is an alternative approach. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broc, independent financial adviser, says: "A portion of your money can be in the bank, a sinking fund that you will use for income and will reduce to zero by year-end. Meanwhile, the rest of the fund has to be working at generating interest to refill the bank account. That way you build up a stream of income through capital growth."

ABP, formerly known as Associated British Ports, has been the best of the privatisation issues. Investors who took part in the first stage of the privatisation have seen their shares perform twice as well as the FT-SE all-share index.

How has the company fared?

With 22 ports, ABP is the largest UK ports operator. As a result, it has been in a prime position to benefit from the UK's strong exports. Andrew Couch, head of Guinness Flight's Privatisation Fund, says: "ABP was exactly the sort of stock we would look for when it was privatised. There was great potential for growth through rationalisation, it was a high-yielding stock and it was attractively priced."

Indeed, rationalisation helped ABP to post profits in its early years. During the early 1990s, the company also benefited from its global outlook. Typically, world trade grows at twice the rate of GDP, so as world economies came out of recession, ABP was in a position to gain.

But it has not been entirely smooth sailing for ABP since privatisation. The company's biggest setback came as a result of its unsuccessful attempts to diversify, notably

Flotation was plain sailing for ABP

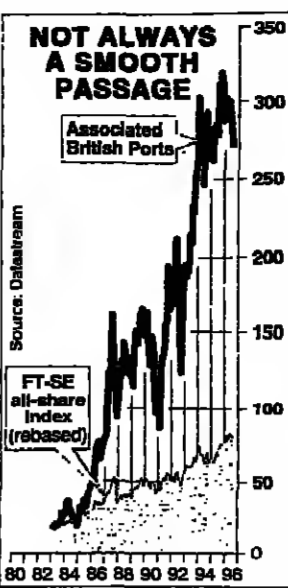


into property in the late 1980s. As a result, ABP suffered during the property crash of the early 1990s.

Since then, the company has shifted its focus back to its core business, and ports have been doing well. Overall pre-tax profits advanced 10 per cent last year, on top of a 29 per cent rise in 1994.

How strong are the shares?

ABP shares currently trade at about 285p, somewhat below their 1996 peak of 313p and



their 1995 high of 319p, but comfortably above their 1990 low of 261p.

For investors who paid the equivalent of 14p a share in February 1983, allowing for stock splits and rights issues, the share price represents a significant gain, with capital compound annual growth of 23.1 per cent, compared with 11.1 per cent for the FT-SE all-share index. Those who bought into the second tranche, in April 1984, which sold for the equivalent of

33.75p, have also done well. What does the market expect of ABP?

The company's own business is solid and productivity at its ports remains high. But there is some concern that profits could be hurt by a windfall tax if Labour wins the next election, since any company which was formerly state-owned could be subject to the tax. It has been estimated that a windfall tax based on market value could cost ABP nearly £70 million.

However, ABP is not the most obvious target of a windfall tax, and investors will probably be more concerned with the company's prospects for growth.

Looking ahead, Mr Couch expects the shares to perform in line with the market. "On the upside, there could be gains from further disposals from the non-core property portfolio. And there is also the possibility of a dividend increase. But the company has now seen most of the benefits from rationalisation, and in a low-growth environment the prospects for revenue growth are limited. In addition, management is regarded as fairly conservative."

KAREN ZAGOR

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* Source: Moneyfacts 6th August 1996

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

After a surprise bouquet, an unethical line on travel insurance payout

From Ms D. Jones
 Sir, When I was travelling from Maastricht to Brussels with the intention of connecting with the last Eurostar train of the day for Waterloo, the Brussels train was delayed because someone had attempted, or committed, suicide on the line near Liège, resulting in the Eurostar Brussels-Waterloo connection being lost. A large bouquet for Eurostar, who provided, at no

cost to passengers, hotel room accommodation and breakfast, plus taxis and reservations on the first available train the following morning. A wooden spoon for my travel insurers, Home and Overseas Insurance Co Ltd, whose claim agents, Claims International Ltd of Croydon, have disclaimed liability for my claim for compensation under the delay section of the policy and additional expendi-

ture incurred (dinner in Brussels) in total £41 on the grounds that the delay was occasioned by suicide. The general exclusions of the policy include "You are not covered for anything caused directly or indirectly by suicide, deliberately injuring yourself, being under the influence of drink or drugs, alcoholism, drug addiction, solvent abuse" etc. etc. Surely these exclusions imply a direct

connection with the insured, not a suicide of some person wholly unknown somewhere on a railway line, resulting in delayed trains and missed connections? It seems unethical wriggling and besmirches once again the travel insurance industry. Yours faithfully, DORIS JONES, 176 Perin Road, Ilford, Essex.

Please, Mr Taxman, do wake up

From Miss J. Brocklebank
 Sir, Since moving house two years ago, I have been trying to communicate with the local tax office. But Bournemouth rebuffs my advances. For a meagre three and a half days' supply teaching in a year, I was taxed as if employed full-time. I live in hope of a refund. My first inquiry received a three-sentence answer. "Because of the amount of work on hand, I am not able to reply fully... hope to reply within six weeks". Three months later, they asked for a P45 and a prophecy as to whether I would work again. I sent the information. Silence. My next inquiry elicited the admission that they had lost the copy of their letter to me and without it could not find my papers. Would I forward a

We heard you were having a little Tax problem... It's our custom to send the team over to sort it out, madam



photocopy of the missing letter? Anything in oblivion, please, how does one get the attention of the Taxman? Claim a connection with royalty? Yours faithfully, J. BROCKLEBANK, 5 Sharratt Avenue, Bishopdown, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Pay a fair rate of interest

From Mr G. K. Moore
 Sir, Interest paid to building society savers has reached a new low, minuscule to many small savers. The multi-various number of tariffs can only mean that should savers choose the wrong one, they will be the losers. Societies should give a lead by ensuring that interest paid should be at least 2 per cent above the rate of inflation. In the 1930s, at times of zero inflation, 2½ per cent per annum was paid to savers and 4 per cent per annum charged to borrowers. This was about right. Yours faithfully, GORDON K. MOORE, 51 St Clare's Close, Farley Road, Littleover Hill, Derby.

From Mr R. Croft
 Sir, One of the worrying aspects of the Titan affair (Robert Miller, August 10) is the impunity with which "clones" of illegal schemes are launched, often within days of the final hearing. Indeed, I have personal knowledge of one "Son of Titan" which was being planned last week even as Mr Justice Blackburne was giving

his judgment. Under existing law the DTI has the power to close down trading schemes such as this under two counts: that they are illegal or that they do not operate in the public interest. In the case of Titan 2 it appears the judge was reasonably happy to accept both arguments, although the DTI

Pragmatism needed to curb pyramid schemes tends to apply the public interest test to most cases it brings before the courts. Under the new Trading Schemes Bill (which is due for Royal Assent shortly) money-circulation schemes will be far more closely circumscribed than at present. In addition, the Secretary of State plans to revamp completely the Pyra-

Unfair gains tax

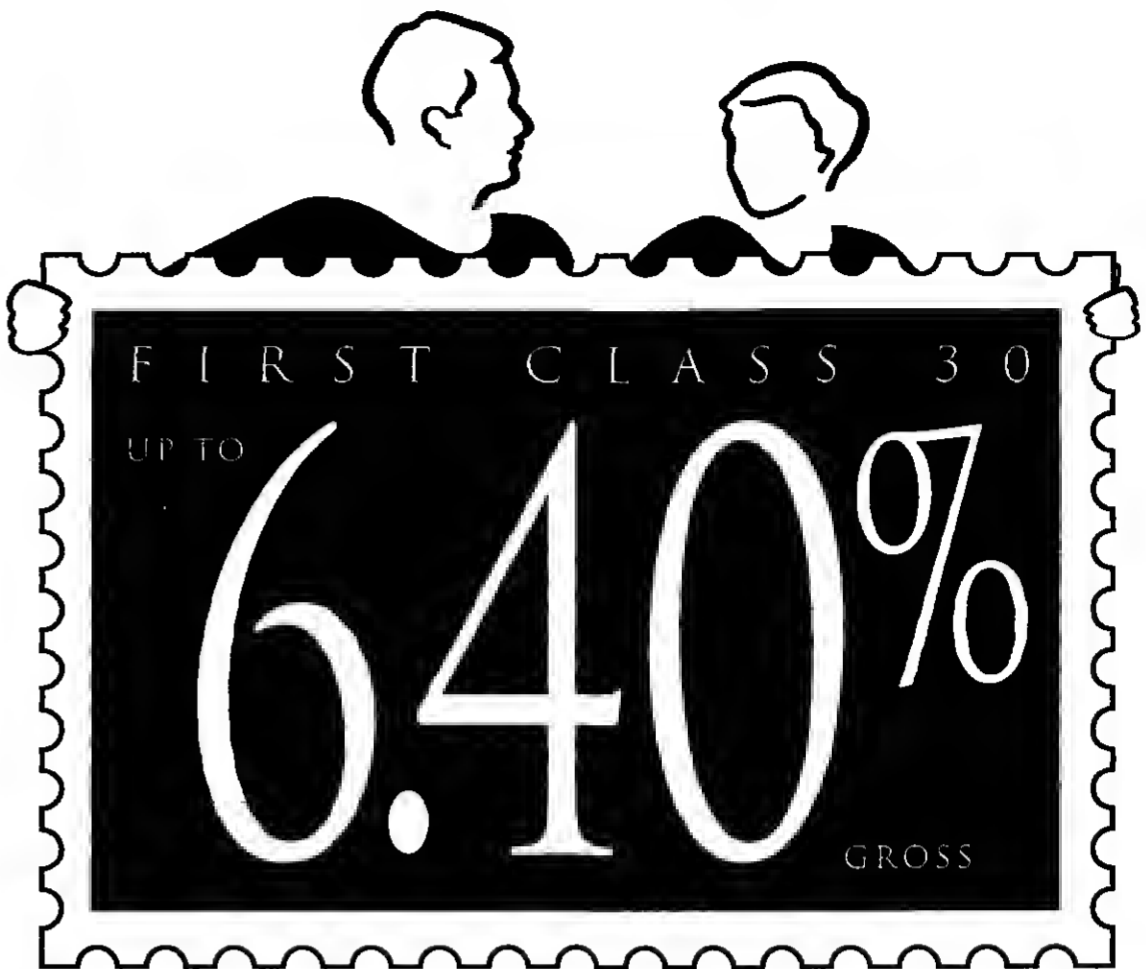
From Mr D. R. Blore
 Sir, Having conducted a protracted correspondence with the Treasury on the subject of capital gains tax, I am convinced that the Treasury is unwilling to listen to any outside opinion and unable to comprehend the destructive effect of this tax on the ability of the private investor effectively to manage a portfolio of

shares registered in his own name, where tax implications can outweigh decisions dictated by sound investment criteria. It was announced in February that Treasury ministers had commissioned the Inland Revenue to review CGT rules. Let us hope that ways will be found to enable the private investor to manage his portfolio with the same freedom from CGT on internal adjustments as that

enjoyed by the managers of collective funds. It is blatantly unfair that a private investor can become liable to CGT on the receipt of a cash bid over which he has no control and must suffer a reduction of income on the reinvestment of his reduced capital. Yours faithfully, D. R. BLORE, Flar 4, Pershore Hall, Pershore, Worcestershire.

mid Selling Schemes Regulations associated with the Fair Trading Act 1973. Any prospective investors in a so-called "network marketing" or "multi-level marketing" scheme should firstly put aside all notions of becoming fabulously rich, before asking themselves, rationally, whether or not they would pay the moneys being asked for the goods or services on offer if they were available in the high street. It is on the basis of this sort of pragmatic judgment that the regulators and courts are studying trading schemes. In the case of Titan 2 the judge observed that it "cannot be declared as having a commercial objective". Yours faithfully, ROBIN CROFT (Senior Lecturer in Marketing), University of Humber, Cottingham Road, Hull.

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		12 MONTHS	3 MONTHS
International Growth	1st of 21	14.7%	AAA
Emerging Companies	2nd of 21	11.8%	AAA
American Growth	3rd of 21	11.5%	AAA
UK Growth	4th of 21	11.2%	AAA
European Growth	5th of 21	11.0%	AAA
UK Growth	6th of 21	10.8%	AAA
Asian Small Caps	7th of 21	10.5%	AAA
Lady Aberdeen Growth	8th of 21	10.2%	AAA
Global Bond	9th of 21	10.0%	AAA

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections like 'UNIT TRUST PRICES', 'UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE', and 'UNIT TRUST PRICES'.

Vertical text on the left margin, possibly containing additional fund names or a list of contents.

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Advertisement for 'SODAS' featuring a large image of a soda can and promotional text.

Text below the SODAS advertisement: 'TO CONTACT YOUR NEAREST DUNNY STORE CALL FREEPHONE 0500 300666'

Vertical text on the right margin, possibly containing additional fund names or a list of contents.

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Shares set records

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Main table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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Advertisement for Mckenzie featuring a large image of a man's face and the name 'Mckenzie' in a stylized font.

RACING

Posidonas to state classic case with Newbury victory

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

POSITONAS looks to have a solid chance of winning the Tripleprint Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury this afternoon and earn a tilt at classic glory in Ireland next month.

Paul Cole has pencilled in the Irish St Leger, which is open to older horses, for the progressive son of Slip Anchor, who has developed into a leading middle-distance performer this season.

After beginning the season by finishing third in the Aston Park Stakes at Newbury in May, when giving away plenty of weight to fitter rivals, he showed improved form when third to Oscar Schindler in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot, where the ground was unsuitably fast.

However, the four-year-old came into his own on good going at Newmarket at the July meeting when recording a career-best performance to beat Singspiel and Annus Mirabilis in the Group Two Princess of Wales's Stakes. Cole, who has few peers when it comes to successful foreign raids from his Whitcombe base, then came within a whisker of landing a group one prize with Posidonas at Disselod 19 days later.

"He should have won but the pace of the race and the course didn't suit him," Cole said yesterday. "They went a

slow pace and the track was only the size of a field. He doesn't like firm ground but the forecast going for Newbury is good so I hope we will be all right. I think the trip will suit him."

An inch and a half of rain fell on the Berkshire course earlier this week, which should prevent the ground becoming too fast. Posidonas can emulate Ibn Bey, who won this race for Cole in 1989.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: THE SCYTHIAN (3.45 Ripon)

Next best: Passing Strangers (7.45 Lingfield Park)

Nap: NORTHERN SUN (3.00 Brighton tomorrow)

Next best: Sylvia Princess (4.00 Brighton tomorrow)

Unfortunately for armchair viewers, an excellent afternoon's racing at Ripon, which includes the £25,000-added William Hill Great St Wilfrid Handicap, is not being televised. The six-furlong cavalry charge may not be quite as competitive as it looks on paper and, given the advantage of a low draw at the Yorkshire course, one runner makes considerable appeal.

The Scythian, twice a course and distance winner, fractured a bone in his hock during the winter and subsequently put his back out. As a result he has taken time to find his form this year but showed his old sparkle over an inadequate five furlongs at Kempton ten days ago when he had his tongue tied down. That came after a two-month break and Bob Jones, the trainer of the four-year-old, said yesterday: "He has got his winning jockey Joe Fanning back on board and everything has come together at the right time." He is a sporting nap.

Earlier in the afternoon, Just Visiting holds solid claims in the Knaresborough Conditions Stakes on the strength of a good second to Tumbleweed Pearl at Thirsk, especially as Kieren Fallon takes over from an apprentice rider.

At Lingfield Park's evening fixture, the stamina-endowed Passing Strangers merits close inspection now that he steps up to 1 1/2 miles for the first time in the Millcroft Group Handicap. He made some encouraging late progress at Nottingham ten days ago, having been set a lot to do, in a ten-furlong race and he can open his account over this longer trip.



Bin Rosie, noseband, is too strong for his rivals in the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Dettori conjures best from Bin Rosie

By JULIAN MUSCAT

LANFRANCO DETTORI'S return to Newbury could hardly have been better after he hoisted a near 420-lb treble at the Berkshire track yesterday. The last time Dettori saw the place was three months ago, when he left in an ambulance nursing a fractured elbow. It was a day when Dettori was to cement old alliances. Two winners came from John Gosden's stable but the most prestigious was him land the day's feature when Bin Rosie, trained by David Loder, swept through to land the Hungerford Stakes. If in the past, Bin

Rosie has appeared a shade reluctant. Dettori made him look like a born trier. The race set up perfectly for Bin Rosie. Green Perfume and Mistle Cat had a rare old spot for the lead, negating each other's chance while drawing the sting from Hammerstein and Ta Rih. Wendyl Woods received a two-day whip ban for his riding of Mistle Cat, who battled on grimly. But it proved a fruitless exercise when the blinkered head of Bin Rosie burst through to lead with a furlong remaining. That might have been the cue for Bin Rosie to ease off. But Dettori never allowed the horse's concentration to

waver, driving him out to prevail by 1 1/2 lengths. It was little wonder that Loder greeted his winner with a look of silent appreciation. "The horse's speed must be saved for the final furlong or he just peters out," Loder said. "You saw what Frankie did: it was a great ride." Dettori's winning sequence was initiated by Catechism in the Sparsholt Maiden Fillies' Stakes for two-year-olds. Having achieved the first objective, which was to settle Catechism, he left it late before catching Nopalea and Elegant Warning close home. The winner will stay further, but Gosden wanted this excitable filly to accept restraint.

2.00 Mulltlover and Cool Edge are favoured by the draw. Mulltlover would have a chance on his third in the Bunbury Cup, but Newwest and Latching make more appeal. Newwest has progressed with every run this term, winning comfortably at Lingfield a week ago. However, Latching has been crying out for a step up in trip and showed her wellbeing when a good second to Cheeky Chappy over six furlongs at Nottingham recently.

Latching favoured by step up in distance

NEWBURY BBC1

2.00: Mulltlover and Cool Edge are favoured by the draw. Mulltlover would have a chance on his third in the Bunbury Cup, but Newwest and Latching make more appeal. Newwest has progressed with every run this term, winning comfortably at Lingfield a week ago. However, Latching has been crying out for a step up in trip and showed her wellbeing when a good second to Cheeky Chappy over six furlongs at Nottingham recently.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.30: Bride's Reprisal is arguably the form choice on her third at Goodwood, but faces several rivals open to considerable improvement. Queen Sceptre is not certain to appreciate the return to five furlongs, although Summerosa can improve on her third at Mayfair at Ascot. However, preference is for Head Over Heels, who can confirm Newbury form with Fanny's Choice. 3.00: see left.

RICHARD EVANS

NEWBURY

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include Mulltlover, Head Over Heels, and Song of Tara.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Head Over Heels.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101 112 0-4-32: GOOD TIMES 7 (20.0) (J.F.6.5) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Half 9-10-0 8 West (4) 88

Racecard member draw in brackets. Sh-highest rank (P=best P=placed up U=unplaced rider B=braght down S=stayed off G=good (R=dropped) Horse's name, Day, race, time, jockey, P=place, F=faltered, B=bleat, V=very, H=halt, E=excuse, C=course winner D=distance winner, CU=

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 5F-7F STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 ANDOVER RATED HANDICAP (BBC1)

Race card for 2.00 Andover Rated Handicap. Includes horses like Kayver, Luffe, and Maltlover.

1995: GYMPAN FORMER 1-8-7 Fallow (110-11) G Holmes 14 pp

FORM FOCUS

KAYVER took 2nd of 7 in Low Conditionals in handicap at Ascot (1), good to firm. COOL EDGE 5f 10th of 14 to Stormont in handicap at Sandown (1), good to soft. LAUFER 5f 2nd of 14 to Stormont in handicap at Sandown (1), good to firm. BAND ON THE RUN 8f 5th of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm. MULLTOVER 3rd of 10 to Maltlover in handicap at Goodwood (1), good to firm with THEORON (1st better off).

2.30 SWEETENHAM STUO ST HUGH'S STAKES (BBC1)

Race card for 2.30 Sweetenham Stakes. Includes horses like Fanny's Choice, Owen Heels, and Owen Sceptre.

1995: AMANING BAY 8-11 W Row (111-4) 1 Baking 6 pm

FORM FOCUS

HEAD OVER HEELS about 191 3rd to Mica Stamp in a maiden race at Newbury (5), good to firm. POSIDONAS 1st of 10 to Owen Heels in conditions race at Haydock (6), good to firm. SWAMP CRACKLE POP (2nd worse off) 7 12th.

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GEOFFREY FREER STAKES (BBC1)

Race card for 3.00 Tripleprint Geoffrey Freer Stakes. Includes horses like Posidonas, Owen Heels, and Owen Sceptre.

1995: PRESENTS 3-8-5 J Reid (10-11) J Gordon 8 pm

FORM FOCUS

POSITONAS best Singspiel 1st in 8-runner group in Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket (4), good to firm. WAYNE COUNTY (2nd worse off) 7 18th.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table with 2 columns: Trainers and Jockeys. Lists names like Chapple-Hyam, Gordon, and others.

3.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND EDDIE KING 60TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O) (E.1.172) (17 runners)

Race card for 3.30 Eddie King 60th Birthday Maiden Stakes. Includes horses like Maltlover, Owen Heels, and Owen Sceptre.

1995: SILVER PREY 9-0 R Sandham (4-11) E Dooker 22 pm

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP LION (killed May 13): 1st of 10 to the Mica Stamp in a maiden race at Newbury (5), good to firm. Maltlover 2nd of 10 to Owen Heels in conditions race at Haydock (6), good to firm. SWAMP CRACKLE POP (2nd worse off) 7 12th.

4.00 LEVY BOARD NURSERY HANDICAP (BBC1)

Race card for 4.00 Levy Board Nursery Handicap. Includes horses like Raven Master, Golden Face, and Goodwood Lass.

1995: MASTER OF PASSION 6-9-3 J Tate (15-1) J Eckard 9 pm

FORM FOCUS

RAVEN MASTER 3rd of 5 in 6 to Ruzanna in group at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOLDEN FACE 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOODWOOD LASS 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm.

FORM FOCUS

RAVEN MASTER 3rd of 5 in 6 to Ruzanna in group at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOLDEN FACE 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOODWOOD LASS 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm.

4.35 TRIMURVATE UNITED STAKES (BBC1)

Race card for 4.35 Trimurvate United Stakes. Includes horses like Sceptre, Maltlover, and Owen Heels.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

SILENTLY 1st of 10 to Coastal Wall in handicap at Goodwood (1), good to firm. VILLAGE KING 2nd of 12 to Sandown Hill in handicap at Newmarket (1), good to firm. EAGLE CANYON 1st of 12 to Sable in handicap at Ascot (1), good to firm.

5.05 STRATTON HANDICAP (BBC1)

Race card for 5.05 Stratton Handicap. Includes horses like Maltlover, Owen Heels, and Owen Sceptre.

1995: MASTER OF PASSION 6-9-3 J Tate (15-1) J Eckard 9 pm

FORM FOCUS

TWICE AS SHARP 2nd of 2 to Ruzanna in group at Sandown (1), good to firm. Maltlover 2nd of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOLDEN FACE 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm.

FORM FOCUS

RAVEN MASTER 3rd of 5 in 6 to Ruzanna in group at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOLDEN FACE 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm. GOODWOOD LASS 1st of 10 to Ruzanna in conditions race at Sandown (1), good to firm.

RACELINE 0930 168+ advertisement for racing results service.

NEW SATURDAY ONLY SERVICE advertisement for The Racing Channel.

Lower has to retire from saddle advertisement for Jonathan Lower.

LINGFIELD PARK advertisement for racing events.

6.45 MALAYA GATWICK MERCEDES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES advertisement.

7.15 MARITIME SERVICES LIMITED STAKES advertisement.

GOT A CARD? GET A FREE £10 BET advertisement.

WILLIAM HILL GREAT ST. WILFRID HANDICAP advertisement.

Zaminda to collect Prix Morio advertisement with a portrait of a man.

CRICKET: SELECTORS SPLIT AS THEY SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO FAMILIAR CONUNDRUM BEFORE OVAL TEST

England balancing act puts Russell on tightrope

BY ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WHENEVER a match needs winning to square a series, there is a danger of confusion and compromise...

whether more sympathy is due to Jack Russell, who could lose the job, or Alec Stewart, who may have to take it up again with stated reluctance.

subsequent century would have been in a winning cause and the series would now be level. Instead, England still trail 1-0 and Russell is once more being touted as the potential fall guy.

partnerships between 89 and 108, would be little short of criminal. Immediately after that game, both Stewart and Michael Atherton, the captain, repeated their view that Russell must continue in the job.

both of whom played so positively in Leeds. This would be harsh, though both will be reassured that their four places are safe.

to Surrey and he would give England an important new dimension in a game that will take some winning.

make. Chris Lewis has regressed to some old, bad habits and can no longer keep out Darren Gough, whose ability to bowl late in a game at a combative pace is unequalled by any Englishman.

Walsh leaves indelible mark to rout Yorkshire

BY JACK BAILEY

Bristol (second day of four): Gloucestershire (23 pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by ten wickets

the field for repairs intermittently during the day, but not before he had emphasised that his bowling was on a higher plane than that of anyone else.

An eight-wicket stand of 115 by the New Zealand wicketkeeper, Gareth Hopkins, and Daniel Vettori frustrated England Under-19's in the second youth international after they had fought back bravely to have the touring team struggling at 162 for seven.

The chief consolation to be gained for Yorkshire at this stage was the consistently good bowling of Chris Silverwood. He finished with five for 73 and, though with nowhere near the penetration of Walsh, he can have done himself no harm in the context of an A tour selection, with Graham Gooch looking on, Darren Gough, however, did not cover himself in glory.



Although batting at No 10, Cowan was not spared from a bouncer by Klusener

Impressive thrust by Kirtley

BY SIMON WILDE

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): South Africa A, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs ahead of TCCB XI

mocked his inexperience as the South Africans lost four wickets clearing the arrears. Kirtley snaffled the first three wickets in his first two overs to leave the innings in tatters at eight for three.

By then, the match was as good as lost. Pakistan batted on for 55 minutes in the morning, Shahid Anwar falling 11 runs short of a century, before declaring. Mohammad Akram, another young bowler who now seems sure to play at the Oval, confirmed the impression he had made in the first innings by having Sutcliffe caught at slip in his second over.

Walker startles statisticians

BY IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 497 runs behind Kent

Records apart, the 22-year-old Walker is not likely to be talked of in the same reverent tones as Woolley. He does not bat with languid grace and neither does he have the same presence or reach, being what could be described euphemistically as a chunky individual.

Malcolm rues his luck

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (second day of four): Derbyshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 73 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

their last five wickets for 36 and Derbyshire stretched their lead by 49, without loss, before the close. It was not Malcolm's day. He took the two big wickets, finding Johnson's edge as the batsman appeared to back away and inducing a top-edged pull from Cairns, and he bowled rather better than figures of two for 108 suggest.

Thereafter, he played stylishly, sometimes gloriously, and, with Johnson emerging from his shell, the pair added 129 in 22 overs. After Cairns was caught at fine leg, the innings petered out.

Leicester batsmen take a turn for the worse

BY PAT GIBSON

Leicester (final day of three): The Pakistanis beat Leicestershire by 101 runs

SAQLAIN MUSHHTAQ, who is regarded as the best young off-spinner in the world, has had to take a back seat since Mushataq Ahmed's renaissance in Australia last winter but he made his presence felt yesterday when the Pakistanis had the last word on a turning pitch at Grace Road.

While the leg-spinner was doing little more than exercising his vocal chords, which he seems to do as assiduously as Pavlov, Saqlain, still only 19, was quietly getting on with his work to take six for 52 as Leicestershire perished in the face of a target of 285 in a minimum of 72 overs.

By then, the match was as good as lost. Pakistan batted on for 55 minutes in the morning, Shahid Anwar falling 11 runs short of a century, before declaring. Mohammad Akram, another young bowler who now seems sure to play at the Oval, confirmed the impression he had made in the first innings by having Sutcliffe caught at slip in his second over.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table containing cricket scoreboards for various matches including Middlesex v Worcestershire, Warwickshire v Glamorgan, and others, listing runs, wickets, and player statistics.

Advertisement for Davies and Lindore, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Davies Lindore'.

GOLF: BRITON'S STRUGGLES CONTINUE AT WOBURN DESPITE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CROWD

Davies met by sympathetic approach

IT WAS not A Round with Alice but it might have been A Round with Alice. There were times yesterday when Laura Davies was expected to do things as unexpected as a character in Lewis Carroll's book.

Davies, who is powerful, aggressive and adventurous, is not bound by the chains of convention on the golf course — and not much off it, either. To see her trying to plot her way cautiously around the Duke's Course, where almost every hole seems gun-barrel narrow and, furthermore, lined with trees, was like watching a boxer being told he could not jab, or a stand-off being ordered to run every ball passed to him by his scrum half.

A marshal on the 15th fairway summed it up. "I dunno about Laura," he said. "I saw a bit of her yesterday and all of today and she is fantastic. She is the best woman golfer in my lifetime. She ought to win the British Open. It doesn't seem right that she's out of it. She's so good and she's such a nice person."

You could almost sense the longing for Davies to play well as she strove to improve on her opening round of 72. There was a succession of audible cries of support from the 2,000 spectators who trailed behind her. As the gasps of encouragement turned to sighs of disappointment as another putt was left short or as another drive tailed off into the trees, it became clear that Davies rivals the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the affections of the great British public.

It did not matter that Karrie Webb, the defending champion, and Meg Mallon, who has won a US Open, were paired with Davies. All anybody talked about was the English-



at Woburn

woman. By the 8th green, a woman observed: "That's Davies there, in the middle. Oooh, she's plus one." As Davies's pun rolled towards the hole there were cries of "go on, go on, go on," each louder than the one before. When it missed, a resounding "Oooooo" went up. On the 9th tee two young men appeared awe-struck at the power of Davies's drive, later measured at more than 300 yards. They turned to one another as if they had seen a jet plane take off from an aircraft carrier and the two words they uttered, while admirably conveying their degree of amazement, were not suitable for reproduction in a family newspaper.

On the 10th hole a man said to his companion: "Laura is expected to birdie this hole." As Davies's drive scorched away into the distance, he said: "Ooh, that's brilliant. It has got round the corner." Davies duly did so, covering the 466 yards with a drive and an eight-iron. On the 11th tee another man said: "She's got a very strong left hand. Did you see how many knuckles she was showing?"



Davies walks purposefully to the 3rd green, with a large gallery in support, during a disappointing round yesterday

Davies finds it as hard to be cautious as Nick Faldo does in his aggressive and, just as Faldo tried his best to be out of character in the US PGA championship last week without any success, so Davies has been unable to rein in her natural skills at Woburn the better to challenge the skills of

others. It all came to a head as early as the par-five 6th hole, where Davies used her length to reach the green in two, only to three-putt. Later she would say: "It's the putting that is doing me in. When I three-putted the 6th I thought to myself, 'that's it. The driver is coming out of the

bag. If I'm going to go down, at least I'm going to go down fighting." Using an iron from every tee on the homeward half, she manufactured a 75 to make the cut — just — while looking thoroughly uncomfortable. She is now one over par and trailing the leader by 13

strokes. The words of Polonius in Hamlet came to mind. "To thine own self be true," the wise fellow said. Perhaps it is for the best that the British Open is moving to Sunningdale next year. Then the best player in Britain might win the best competition in Britain.

EQUESTRIANISM: WHITAKERS JOIN FORCES IN ATTEMPT TO THWART IRISH TREBLE AT HICKSTEAD

Sublime Derby rehearsal bodes well for Skelton

By Jenny MacArthur

NICK SKELTON, riding Sublime, underlined his chances for the £120,000 Silk Cut Derby tomorrow when he won the Derby Trial at Hickstead yesterday with a devastating round against the clock.

Surprisingly for a rider who has won most of the sport's major prizes, this was Skelton's first success in the Trial.

His win came after an ill-horser jump-off in which Skelton, a winner with Sublime on the opening day of the meeting, approached the penultimate fence at such an angle he was almost parallel with it. "She's a very

honest horse," he said after relegating Michael Whitaker, on his borrowed horse, Touchdown, to second place by 2.20sec. Despite the win — and finishing fifth with Cathleen, his other Derby entry — Skelton was guarded about his chances tomorrow.

"It's the first time for both of them and I always think that a horse needs to have been round the course once to have a good chance," he said. Historically, too, the odds are not good.

Only one rider — Ireland's Eddie Macken, on Boomerang in 1979 — has won both the Derby Trial and the Derby in the same year. If Skelton

succeeds he will pick up a £5,000 bonus from the sponsors.

Whitaker is also less than confident about his chances with Touchdown, a horse he has on loan from the Irishman, James Kernan. The stallion, who will also be competing in the Derby for the first time, chipped a bone in his stifle in a crashing fall from the indoor bank at Millstreet, Co Cork, four years ago.

Yesterday, when he had to come down the easier side of the bank, he hesitated for several seconds at the top before reluctantly descending. "If it had been the steep side, I don't think he'd have come down," Whitaker said. His best chance may

lie with Gammon, belonging to his brother, John. They were seventh yesterday after incurring four faults at the second fence in the jump-off.

"He's perfect to ride and very well schooled, like a dressage horse," Michael said of the 13-year-old gelding, who has competed in the Derby eight times and been runner-up twice. Michael, who sat on Gammon for the first time yesterday, rang his brother in Holland immediately after the Trial to confirm that it was all right for him to ride the horse. "I had my hand ready on the button to switch the phone off if he sounded reluctant," he said. The two main threats to the British

riders are likely to come from Michel Robert, of France, on Dégina, who was third yesterday, and Captain John Ledingham, from Ireland, who is attempting a third successive win with Kilbaha. Yesterday Ledingham was clear over the first round — which contained many of the fences used in the Derby — but he and Geoff Luckett, on Vanique, both withdrew in order to save their horses for tomorrow.

Geoff Billington, badly bruised in a fall on Monday, still hopes to compete this weekend with Mancuso. Douglas Burn, the owner of Hickstead, said he would waive the normal qualifying rule.

Lindores lands in double trouble

By Gordon Allen

JOYCE LINDORES, of Scotland, was beaten twice yesterday, throwing the women's world singles championship at Royal Leamington Spa wide open. The outcome now depends on the last two qualifying rounds today, with shots difference perhaps coming into the equation.

Merle Swerdlow, of Israel, defeated Lindores 25-20 and Marie Taylor, of Holland, who was bottom of the table, won 25-22. With Wendy Line, of England, and Margaret

Johnston, of Ireland, the defending champion, both winning twice, three players — Lindores, Line, and Johnston — are tied on ten points each at the top of their section.

Lindores led Swerdlow 19-10 until losing her grip. Against Taylor, a left-hander from Rotterdam who has been bowling for only six years, she recovered from 20-4 down to get within striking distance of a remarkable victory. On the decisive end, she held two shots but Taylor sprang the jack to her back wood.

Line had two straightfor-

ward wins, 25-13 over Norhashimah Ismail, of Malaysia, and 25-15 over Maria Vasquez, of Argentina, while Johnston beat Lina Tikoisiva, of Fiji, 25-14 and Ismail 25-22. Johnston plays Lindores in the closing round today.

The other section appears to lie between Carmen Anderson, of Norfolk Island, Rita Jones, of Wales, and Willow Fong, of Australia. Anderson has 11 points and Jones and Fong ten each. Jones had a tough match against Dorrien Ives, of Spain, before edging through 25-22.

South Africa maintained their lead in their section of the fours, three points in front of Norma Shaw, Jean Baker, Gill Fitzgerald and Mary Price, of England, who beat Holland 31-11 and Kenya 28-9. Scotland, the defending champions, are in fourth place and out of the running.

It looks increasingly like a South Africa v Australia final tomorrow, barring a slip-up by either team. Australia head the other section by four points from New Zealand, with Fiji third and Wales a distant fourth.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 18 Oakland 5. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 3 San Diego 2. Philadelphia 5 Atlanta 8. Florida 6 Montreal 2. Los Angeles 10 St Louis 2. Postponed: Pittsburgh v San Francisco.

BOWLS

LEAMINGTON SPA: Women's world outburst championships. Singles: Elizabeth Johnston (Ire) 25-10, Wendy Line (Eng) 25-10, Joyce Lindores (Sco) 25-10, Marie Taylor (Hol) 25-10, Merle Swerdlow (Isr) 25-10. Pairs: Johnston/Line 25-10, Lindores/Swerdlow 25-10, Taylor/Swerdlow 25-10. Triples: Johnston/Line/Swerdlow 25-10. Fours: Johnston/Line/Swerdlow/Taylor 25-10.

CRICKET

BARN HOGG TROPHY: Semi-final: Hildesley, Leicestershire 205-7, P E Robinson 81 not out, C C Perry 53. Worcester 150. Leicestershire won by 155 runs. NAYC UNDER-19 COUNTY FESTIVAL: 1st Round: Warwickshire 137, Walsley 108. 2nd Round: Warwickshire 137, Walsley 108. 3rd Round: Warwickshire 137, Walsley 108. 4th Round: Warwickshire 137, Walsley 108.

EQUESTRIANISM

HICKSTEAD: Silk Cut Challenge: 1. Skelton (G) 2. Taylor (I) 3. Macken (I) 4. Whitaker (I) 5. Johnston (I) 6. Line (E) 7. Swerdlow (I) 8. Taylor (I) 9. Johnston (I) 10. Line (E) 11. Swerdlow (I) 12. Taylor (I) 13. Johnston (I) 14. Line (E) 15. Swerdlow (I) 16. Taylor (I) 17. Johnston (I) 18. Line (E) 19. Swerdlow (I) 20. Taylor (I) 21. Johnston (I) 22. Line (E) 23. Swerdlow (I) 24. Taylor (I) 25. Johnston (I) 26. Line (E) 27. Swerdlow (I) 28. Taylor (I) 29. Johnston (I) 30. Line (E) 31. Swerdlow (I) 32. Taylor (I) 33. Johnston (I) 34. Line (E) 35. Swerdlow (I) 36. Taylor (I) 37. Johnston (I) 38. Line (E) 39. Swerdlow (I) 40. Taylor (I) 41. Johnston (I) 42. Line (E) 43. Swerdlow (I) 44. Taylor (I) 45. Johnston (I) 46. Line (E) 47. Swerdlow (I) 48. Taylor (I) 49. Johnston (I) 50. Line (E) 51. Swerdlow (I) 52. Taylor (I) 53. Johnston (I) 54. Line (E) 55. Swerdlow (I) 56. Taylor (I) 57. Johnston (I) 58. Line (E) 59. Swerdlow (I) 60. Taylor (I) 61. Johnston (I) 62. Line (E) 63. 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THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Arsenal could have signed Vialli but didn't. They could have had Brazile's elegant Juninho last season, but didn't. Now, sacking a manager at the start of a new season, they bought in haste. Gardie is a mystery. Vialli undoubtedly a talent. We await Arsene Wenger. David Dein, Arsenal's vice-president, is now an Aunt Sally. Seventy years ago, Sir Henry Norris, who moved Arsenal to Highbury, decreed: no new players under 17 in or 10½st. Still, he might have signed Vialli. BG

ASTON VILLA

Just when Villa supporters thought Brian Little was resting on his laurels, having made barely a move in the summer market, up popped Sasa Curcic, the £4 million Serbian midfielder from Bolton Wanderers. Little had been trailing Curcic, one of Bolton's few successes as they plunged out of the Premiership last season, for six months. Once Curcic's work permit has been renewed, he will wear the claret-and-blue alongside Savo Milosevic, his Yugoslav team-mate, for the first time. RK

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The strike force of Alan Shearer and Mike Newell were the highest-profile departures from Blackburn this summer, but the club also lost a key figure in the backroom staff, secretary John Howarth; he has moved to Burnley. Shearer's move could have been even more costly. Two weeks before he left, Jack Walker offered to bet a questioning journalist a year's salary that Shearer would start the season in Blackburn colours. The journalist, not being in Walker's league, turned the bet down. He is now regretting it. PB

CHELSEA

"Chelsea will stagger humanity," a Fleet Street figure said when the club was formed, 91 years ago. This is their chance. They haven't won the title since 1955, or the FA Cup since 1970. Now they have brought together what looks like one of the most attractive, talented teams in the Premiership. Gullit should have at least another season in him on the field; Vialli is still a colossal talent, a compound of technique and power. Di Matteo provides the central "spine" that Gullit wants, and can pass like a dream. Prepare to be staggered. BG

COVENTRY CITY

Ron Atkinson begins his last season in management today, if you really believe that he will stand aside for Gordon Strachan come next summer, and he clearly aims to bow out with a laugh and a joke, as usual. After Coventry's 7-2 defeat against Benfica last weekend, Big Ron was asked what he could possibly have gained from such a sound thrashing by the Portuguese side. "I learned how to count, I thought they'd scored eight," he said. "And I now know we're going to be excellent on kick-offs." RK

DERBY COUNTY

Twice during the summer Aljosa Asanovic stood head and shoulders above his fellow midfield players. It was a surprise that he outshone Boban and Prosnecic in Croatia's European championship campaign; that he did so again in Derby's pre-season work, less so. Igor Stimac, his compatriot, told Jim Smith that Derby could not afford to be without the man's vision and passing range. That is the biggest single reason for optimism among supporters that the club will tread water, not drown, this season. PB

EVERTON

Two things go on puzzling Joe Royle as Everton go into the new season: why his side's odds as Premiership winners are so long, and why he is being connected with every striker in Europe. "We came sixth last season without Kanchelskis and Ferguson for half of it," he said. "This season we're starting with a full squad." He is equally ebullient about scoring goals. "People say we'll be short of goals, but I can see four players who will score 10 to 12 goals plus, and with others chipping in, we will get goals." PB

LEEDS UNITED

Tomas Broin, Leeds United's £4.5 million misfit, is fast becoming a non-person at Elland Road. Broin has grudgingly been given 36, the last number in the squad. There were suspicions that the loss of Gary McAllister has deprived them of a team leader. Wilkinson doesn't think so, but it has taken two to replace him. "I've made Carlton Palmer club captain," Wilkinson said. "Nobody would call him a shrinking violet—he's got personality to spare. And Ian Rush will be team captain. I think his credentials stand up." PB

LEICESTER CITY

Enough prophecies of doom have converged upon Leicester, since their success through the first division play-offs, to fill the conference room in Fife Street's sumptuous main stand. As the last side to reach the Premiership, Martin O'Neill, the manager, recognises that they are "automatic candidates" for relegation. So do the bookmakers. That view, surely realistic rather than pessimistic, is shared by a vocal section of supporters, who are muttering darkly about protests on Wednesday, at the Southampton match. PB

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool are 3-1 third favourites to win the Premiership, according to Ladbrokes. Even some insiders don't regard that as a good bet on a young team without the traditional Liverpool leavening of seasoned old pros. For all the quality of their football at times last season, Roy Evans condemned his side for being "under-achievers". That may not change this year. Particularly since the departure of Ian Rush, to Leeds, they are short on players imbued with the traditional Liverpool professionalism. PB

MANCHESTER UNITED

Alex Ferguson has left little doubt that repeating Sir Matt Busby's feat of winning the European Cup is his obsession this season, and he shares his target. "In England the Premiership is so important," Eric Cantona, the new club captain, told United magazine. "I think in the past it has been the priority, but this season we want to win the European Cup and the Premiership. Everybody at United wants to win the European Cup. We want to be famous all round the world, not only in our country." PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

Emerson's long crinkly wet-look, Ravanelli's square grey convict crop and Juninho's schoolboy cut are just three of the contrasting hairstyles on show in Teesside's most cosmopolitan quarter. Bryan Robson has assembled a polyglot side including three Brazilians, an Italian and a Norwegian. While Ravanelli, the £7 million Italian, starts at centre forward, Juninho may not yet be sufficiently recovered from Brazil's exertions in Atlanta to play, and despite earning £20,000 a week, Branco is not a first choice anyway. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Kevyn Keegan has always said that winning the first trophy will represent Newcastle's toughest challenge. In the wake of that 4-0 defeat to Manchester United, Keegan has finally confessed he was wrong to omit Gillespie from the starting line-up, and the former Manchester United player should start at Everton. According to Bryan Robson much will depend on whether Peter Beardsley has another season left in him: "Peter's enthusiasm and passing brings the best out of everyone," said Middlesbrough's manager. LT

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Good managers will come to the fore this season, according to Frank Clark, Forest's manager. Some have the resources to echo Viv Nicholson and spend, spend, spend, but Clark believes that, come May, those who invest wisely what little they have will gain the most recognition. Forest are a club of slender means but Clark feels he has signed a bargain in Dean Saunders. Saunders, an immense success at Derby, can hardly fail to improve on Jason Lee, now shorn of a first-team place as well as his pineapple locks. NS

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

If only Wednesday's football was as articulate as their manager's media analysis. While David Pleat is consistency personified behind a microphone, Wednesday's players offer a new definition of erratic. Aston Villa at Hillsborough should offer a useful yardstick to this season's mood and potential. All eyes will be on Andy Booth, the young former Huddersfield forward that many Premiership rivals peeped at, before getting cold feet and looking abroad. Scott Oakes has also rejoined his former Luton mentor. LT

SUNDERLAND

Strains of last spring's hit record, Simply Red and White's Cheer up Peter Reid, are sure to ring around Roker Park but Sunderland's manager trusts he will be leading post-match celebrations in the club's newly opened Reidy's Bar. Niall Quinn will make his debut leading the attacking line against Leicester following Thursday's club record £1.3 million move from Manchester City. Tony Cotton keeps goal after signing up from Manchester United reserves while Alex Rae has departed Millwall to assume Roker's playmaker mantle. LT

FORM GUIDE

Table with 2 columns: Last season's position, Last five league games. Lists teams like Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn, Chelsea, Coventry, Derby, Everton, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester Utd, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Sunderland, Tottenham, West Ham, Wimbledon with their respective records.

SOUTHAMPTON

"We're as ready as we can be," Graeme Souness said, a remark reflecting the frustrations of a fruitless search for cut-price signings that has taken the new Southampton manager scouting in Scandinavia, and brought a host of trials to The Dell from all over Europe. The good news — Matthew Le Tissier is relishing an early opportunity to impress Glenn Hoddle in tomorrow's high-profile televised opener against the England manager's former club, Chelsea. Southampton expects. Well, hopes. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

It was probably not for want of trying, but Gerry Francis indulged very little in the summer transfer frenzy. Allan Nielsen, the Danish mark midfielder player, was his solitary significant purchase. However, a clause in the £1.65 million deal means that Nielsen, 25, will not arrive until Thursday, when he has concluded unfinished business with Brøndby, his Danish club. Brøndby trail 2-1 after the first leg of their European Cup preliminary-round tie against Widzew Lodz, of Poland, and play the return on Wednesday, Nielsen's swansong. RK

WEST HAM UNITED

As he dived around the training ground this week, like a youngster out to impress, it was hard to believe that here was a player who made his league debut in the season that England won the World Cup. But then Peter Shilton, 47 next month and the winner of 125 England caps, is no ordinary player. Shilton badly wants to become the first player to make 1,000 league appearances in British football and, should Ludek Miklosko's injured finger keep him out against Arsenal at Highbury today, Shilton could take his tally to 997. KP

WIMLEDON

"Frightening," Vinnie Jones said of the prospect of opening fixtures against Manchester United (home) and Newcastle United (away). "We lost 6-1 at Newcastle last year. But we're all in the same league, so there shouldn't be that much difference. And funny things happen at the beginning of a season." Joe Kinnear, the manager, is at least looking forward to a rare Seithurst sell-out today, even if more than 20,000 will be behind the visitors. "They're 2-1 to win the league, we're 250-1," he said. NS

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Louise Taylor, Niek Szczepanik, Keith Pike

ARSENAL v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 1-0, 2-1, —, 0-1, —, 0-2, 0-1, 1-0. HOW THEY LINE UP: ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, I Dixon, A Linighan, M Keown, S Boult, N Winterburn, R Parfou, D Platt, P Mereson, D Bergkamp, I Wright, M Rose, S Morrow, J Hartson, G Helder, D Hiller, P Dickov, J Lukic. WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Blicic, M Ripser, K Rowland, M Hughes, F Lampard, I Downe, D Williamson, S Jones, A Whitbread, P Futre, R Slater, M Bowen, S Lazarides, R Ferdinand, S Moutfou.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Seats available. 10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 0-2, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1. HOW THEY LINE UP: BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Handry, C Coleman, G Dons, G Fenton, K Galacher, L Bohmer, I Pearce, G Fitzcarr, S Ripley, P Warhurst, S Given, N Marker, D Duff, M Holmes, G Croft, S Gudmundsson. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, G Matbut, C Cokerwood, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, R Fox, C Armstrong, E Sheenham, A Setton, R Rosenblatt, S Carr, J Dozzell, S Nelhercott, J Edinburgh, G McMahon, E Beardson.

COVENTRY CITY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Seats available. 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-3, 2-2, 0-2, 0-2, 0-1, —, 0-0, 1-1. HOW THEY LINE UP: COVENTRY CITY (from): S Digzovic, R Snow, I Dash, D Burrows, P Tetter, E Jess, G Walters, J Williams, J Salako, D Oskin, N Whelan, M O'Neill, K Richardson, B Borrows, A Ducros, M Hall, Icaias, J Filan. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): S Crossley, A Fetts, D Lytle, A-I Hasland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chitto, S Pearce, S Stone, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, P McGregor, J Leo.

DERBY COUNTY v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available. 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, —, —, 0-1, —, —. HOW THEY LINE UP: DERBY COUNTY (from): R Houli, M Taylor, J Laursen, D Yates, I Stimac, G Rowett, P Parker, C Powell, D Powell, R van der Laan, C Dally, A Asanovic, D Strunige, M Gabbiadini, R Williams, P Simpson, L Careley, S Flynn. LEEDS UNITED (from): N Marilyn, M Beamsy, G Kelly, R Johnson, L Radabe, C Palmer, D Weitherrall, L Sharpe, R Wallace, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Ruch, B Deane, A Gray, P Beesley, A Couzens, M Taitler.

EVERTON v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 1-0, 4-0, —, —, 0-2, 2-0, 1-3. HOW THEY LINE UP: EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, D Watson, C Short, A Kanchelskis, J Ebbrell, A Grant, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Branch, P Rideout, A Limpin. NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Smekal, W Barton, J Beesford, D Baily, D Pascock, S Howey, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, R Elliott, D Ginola, S Hislop, K Gillespie, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert, P Kilson.

MIDDLESBROUGH v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 0-4, —, —, 1-2, —, 2-1. HOW THEY LINE UP: MIDDLESBROUGH (from): A Miller, G Walsh, N Cox, G Fleming, S Vickers, N Pearson, D White, N Barnby, Emerson, F Ravanelli, Juninho, A Moore, R Mustoe, Branco. LIVERPOOL (from): D James, D Matteo, S-I Bjornebye, J McAteer, M Wright, D Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, S Coffey, R Fowler, M Carragher, D Thompson, P Chamock, A Warner, L Jones.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, —, 1-0, 1-0, —, 2-3, 1-2, 0-0, 1-2, 2-0. HOW THEY LINE UP: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): A Pressman, M Clarke, P Arherton, D Stefanovic, S Oakes, D Walker, I Nolan, S Nicol, G Whittingham, W Collins, G Hyde, J Sheridan, M Pembridge, R Bliker, J Humphreys, A Booth, O Donaldson, M Williams. ASTON VILLA (from): M Oakes, G Charles, S Staunton, G Southgate, P McGrath, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, D Yorke, T Johnson, S Collymore, J Wright, U Ehojuz, L Hendle, C Tier, G Farrelly, R Scarnozza, F Carr, P King, N Davis, S Murray, S Curcic.

SUNDERLAND v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 2-2, 2-2, 1-0, 1-2, 2-3, —, 1-2. HOW THEY LINE UP: SUNDERLAND (from): A Cotton, D Preece, D Kubicki, G Hall, M Scott, P Bracewell, K Ball, A Melville, G Ord, S Agnew, D Kelly, P Stewart, N Quinn, C Russell, M Gray, L Howey, M Bridges, S Aston, M Smith. LEICESTER CITY (from): K Poole, C Keller, S Grayson, J Walte, S Walsh, S Prior, M Whitlow, S Taylor, N Lennon, M Izet, S Cairidge, E Heskey, M Robins, F Rolling, S McMahon, S Campbell, J Wells.

WIMLEDON v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available. 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-1, 1-1, 2-2, 1-3, 1-2, 1-2, 1-0, 0-1, 2-4. HOW THEY LINE UP: WIMLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kinnie, V Jones, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, O Leonhardsson, R Earle, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, C Perry, J Goodman, A Reeves, A Thom, B McAllister, N Ardley, S Castledine, M Harford, D Jupp, A Clarke. MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, D Irwin, D May, G Pallister, P Neville, D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Gigg, E Cantona, P Scholtes, K Poborsky, J Cruyff, G Neville, R Johnson, R van der Gouw.

SOUTHAMPTON v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 3-0, —, 2-3, 3-3, 1-0, 1-0, 3-1, 0-1, 2-3. HOW THEY LINE UP: SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, A Nelson, F Bessal, S Charlton, R Dryden, J Magilton, B Venison, N Maddison, M Le Tissier, N Shepperson, G Watson, N Heaney, D Hughes, M Oakley, P Tisdale, N Moss, G Potter. CHELSEA (from): D Khariin, D Pehesou, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, J Spencer, A Myers, G Vialli, M Hughes, D Wise, M Dubery, D Lee, K Hitchcock, C Buxley, R di Matteo, S Mintie, E Johnson, G Pascock, J Morris.

LIVERPOOL v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Seats available. 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-0, 0-2, 2-1, 0-1, 2-0, 0-2, 0-0, 3-0, 3-1. HOW THEY LINE UP: LIVERPOOL (from): D James, D Matteo, S-I Bjornebye, J McAteer, M Wright, D Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, S Coffey, R Fowler, M Carragher, D Thompson, P Chamock, A Warner, L Jones. ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, J Lukic, I Dixon, A Linighan, N Winterburn, M Keown, S Boult, R Parfou, D Platt, P Mereson, D Bergkamp, M Rose, I Wright, S Morrow, J Hartson, G Helder, D Hiller, P Dickov.

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights) 11.00am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday 4pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday Southampton v Chelsea (live) 8pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football Liverpool v Arsenal (live)

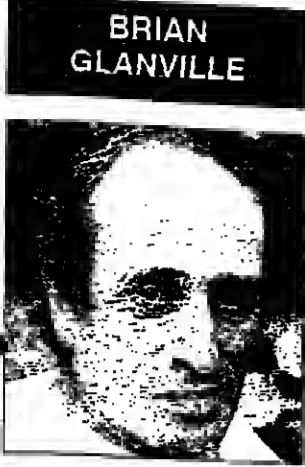
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FOOTBALL: INTRIGUING PERSONALITY CLASH AT THE DELL AS NEW MANAGER FACES TASK OF MOTIVATING LE TISSIER

Souness returns with saintly intentions

Liverpool ambition comes at a price

By Peter Ball



BRIAN GLANVILLE

Souness at Southampton, will it work? Is Graeme Souness, as he assures us, a changed, domesticated character? Has the cloven hoof definitively disappeared? The acid test must surely be, how will he get on with Matthew Le Tissier? Will he show infinite patience, exemplary tolerance, as Dave Merrington, his predecessor, did last season, with such mixed success. Or will he be more of a Branfoot, a previous Southampton manager, who banished the mad-dogging multitalented Le Tissier to the reserves, to the fury of Southampton fans who even wished the manager dead.

There could hardly be two more different people than Souness and Le Tissier. If at 43 Souness has changed, if his second marriage, as he says, has given him a new perspective on life, has shown him that there is life beyond football (something he never expected) then who was it, last season, who could have caused a riot in Istanbul?

Who was it, on the occasion of one of those ferocious derby matches at Galatasaray, who took the Galatasaray flag and recklessly planted it in the middle of the field? Souness was managing Galatasaray and that gesture was widely seen as sealing his fate at the club. Impossible to imagine the serene Le Tissier ever doing something so provocative. Le Tissier's control of the ball is superb, his awareness exceptional, his right foot a laser, yet there are times when he just does not seem to care. Souness has always cared intensely, as player, player-manager and now manager. It is hard to believe that he can now take adversity in his stride or that, on those days when Le Tissier's thoughts seem to be elsewhere, he will sit mute on the bench and let things take their course.



Souness has returned from a turbulent season in charge of Galatasaray, in Turkey, to manage perennial strugglers, Southampton

Both as player and manager Souness has been a paradox. His own talents as a footballer were exceptional. If there is really no such thing as a midfield player *per se*, a player capable of doing anything that an inside-forward or a wing-half could do, Souness (like Johan Neeskens, of Holland, may have been the exception who proved the rule.

His own ball skills were unusual, his passing ever-intelligent, his shooting fierce and precise, his commitment beyond doubt. He could win tackles. Quite often, his tackles went too far.

In a League Cup final at Wembley between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur in 1982, Souness brought down Tony Galvin, the Tottenham winger, after 20 minutes in a way that had the Tottenham fans shouting their anger. Souness went on to play a significant role in Liverpool's eventual success. Galvin limped.

Then, in a European Cup-tie at Anfield, there was the abrasive Romanian who, clashing with Souness, departed with a fractured cheekbone. If Souness, however hard, was essentially a skilful, rational

player, then so is he an intelligent person, with a thoroughly alert mind. He has never underestimated himself. It was his Scotland colleague, Archie Gemmill, who said: "If he was a chocolate he'd eat himself." His nickname at Liverpool was Charlie, as in Champagne Charlie.

But with so much skill so much intelligence, why have there been so many episodes on and off the field? Terry Yorath, of Leeds and Wales, no angel himself, remarked, after a Wales v Scotland match in 1979: "There's no friction on my part, but I

always seem to have trouble with him." Frank Worthington, that gifted maverick, called Souness "the nastiest, most ruthless man in soccer. Don Revie's bunch of assassins at Leeds were bad enough but there is a streak in Souness which puts him top of the list."

What mixed memories one has of him. Of Souness on a flight between Bucharest and Glasgow, after Rangers had played a European Cup-tie against Steaua, telling a Scottish journalist who offended him that if he did not shut up he would "get a sore face, like

you got from Billy McNeill", the former Celtic manager. There are also memories of Souness, relaxed, charming and convivial, at a hotel bar in Genoa after playing for Sampdoria alongside Trevor Francis. Joining in, with his father-in-law, Francis, his wife and myself a chorus of *Underneath the Arches*. Souness, like Francis, did well in Italy, showing the maturity to adjust to a peculiar way of life. Back he came to be player-manager of Rangers and to be sent off in his very first game in his native Edinburgh, for a wild tackle on a

Hibernian opponent. His career, in fact, began with Tottenham but — and not surprisingly — he could not as a young player abide the splenetic style of Tottenham's coach, Eddie Baity.

In later years, Souness blamed himself for things having gone wrong, and Baity's bark was unquestionably much worse than his bite. Once a fine inside-forward himself, we have a vignette of him in Hunter Davies's *The Glory Game* yelling abuse at a defender after Tottenham's reserves had lost to Bristol City. Souness, meanwhile, sitting, white in the face, having played five minutes as a substitute, complained he felt blood in his mouth.

He was initially so homesick in London that he once ran home to Edinburgh. Eventually Tottenham gave up on him and sold him to Middlesbrough, where he became a star. From there he went to Liverpool, winning European Cups, championships and FA Cups.

'With so much intelligence and skill, why have there been so many episodes?'

In 1978, Scotland took him to the World Cup but were foolish enough to leave him out until their third and last game, when he was outstanding in a win against Holland.

At Rangers, his close relationship with the ambitious chairman, David Murray, his installation as a director with abundant shares, suggested he would be there in perpetuity. He now says he should never have left, never have gone back to Liverpool where they seemed to find him too abrasive. Morale declined, though Liverpool did win the FA Cup again.

When Souness had a heart attack and a by-pass operation, he made another of his bewildering *faux pas*, selling his story to *The Sun*, reviled on Merseyside after the Hillsborough disaster.

Now, here he is again, back in Britain. He says he wants to make The Dell a place where other teams fear to tread. No doubt he will not have this effect on his own team. After all, as he tells us, he is a changed man.

LIVERPOOL started the season on the wrong foot yesterday when they announced a loss of £4.8 million, the highest in the club's history. The deficit is accounted for by the purchases of Stan Collymore and Jason McAteer, who together cost the club £13 million. The club's previous highest loss was £2.75 million in 1995. The wage bill was also up, from £10.4 million to £13.2 million. The loss apart, the figures testify to Liverpool's strength. Turnover has risen from £19.8 million to £27.4 million, a 50 per cent increase, with gate receipts up by £2.5 million.

The Riverside Stadium will be full for Liverpool's visit today, one of half a dozen mouth-watering games to start the season. Middlesbrough unveil their summer signings, with Ravanelli partnering Baromy up front and Emerson joining Juninho in midfield.

There will be equal interest for Newcastle United's visit to Goodison Park, with Alan Shearer making his competitive debut against Everton. The choice by Kevin Keegan, the manager, of those around Shearer will be instructive. Asprilla is suspended, making Keegan's task more straightforward.

Keegan yesterday restored Robbie Elliott to the squad after his proposed transfer to Blackburn Rovers broke down. "Robbie is going to register here on a two-year deal," Keegan said.

The absence of Ryan Giggs could open the way for Jordi Cruyff or provide a solution to Alex Ferguson's main problem, whether or not to play Karel Poborsky in the Manchester United team against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park ahead of the in-form David Beckham. West Ham United will be without their record signing, Florian Raducioiu, against Arsenal.

The Football Association yesterday punished Brighton for the riot at the Goldstone Ground last April. The Nationwide League side were ordered to play one match behind closed doors and will have three points deducted. Both penalties were suspended until the end of the season.

Premiership profits from soaring interest rates

By Russell Kempson

ADMISSION prices have risen throughout the FA Carling Premiership — a mini-mortgage is now required to follow some clubs — but supporters' enthusiasm has rarely been dented. With the 1996-97 season now upon us, ticket hotlines have been jammed by frantic information-seekers, as the big kick-off loomed, only the behind-a-pillar restricted-view seats were left.

The European championship has left its indelible print on the minds of many. Football came home during the summer and, despite England's semi-final defeat against Germany, it helped to keep the Premiership pot boiling. Add the spice of Ravanelli in red, Vialli in blue and Shearer in black and white, shake vigorously and who cares that it will cost more to watch the £30,000-a-week warriors.

Only three clubs — Manchester United, Leeds United and Wimbledon — have maintained the status quo. Entrance to Old Trafford is still reasonably within the range of ordinary Joe Punter, from £12 to £18, and the viewing options have been

increased by the completion of the new North Stand.

With Cruyff and Poborsky joining Cantona and Giggs, unloading 35,000 season tickets was as simple as shelling peas. Finding another 20,000 day-trippers will not be difficult as the league champions and FA Cup holders defend their double crown.

More modestly, Wimbledon's reward for keeping their prices at £10 to £25 is a "better than last season" sale of more than 3,000 season tickets, dispelling the myth that nobody loves the Crazy Gang. Leeds have also kept faith with their 1995-96 figures and, despite a turbulent pre-season at Elland Road with take-overs and transfers, the supporters should be reappearing in similar numbers.

Mandy Ward, ticket office manager at Leeds, said: "I think people have been a bit anxious, with everything going on at the club, but it's all settled now. We've sold about 17,500 season tickets, which is on a par with this stage last season."

Bargain-hunters should look no further than Sheffield Wednesday, whose £8 match-day ticket — down from £8.50 last season — for a seat in the

Lower West Stand, behind the goal opposite the Kop, is the cheapest in the Premiership. Summer sales are still no better than 1995-96, about 10,000, and far removed from the 16,000 of two years ago.

Little change at Newcastle United, either, even in the throes of Shearermania, but only because St James' Park cannot accommodate any

more season ticket-holders, who make up 85 per cent of the ground's 36,000 capacity. Most Nationwide League clubs would kill for Newcastle's waiting list of thousands.

Elsewhere, interest is on the up and up, especially in London. West Ham United's influx of foreign talent has produced sales of 12,500 tickets, an increase of 2,500;

Chelsea's box office has seen an impressive jump of 50 per cent — "I think the arrival of Mr Vialli has something to do with it" — a club spokesman said — and Tottenham Hotspur report a further 15 per cent surge.

Many of White Hart Lane's 15,000 pre-season buyers have taken advantage of the club's new instalment scheme,

which eases the financial pain by spreading the payments over 12 months, while Stamford Bridge, at £40, possesses comfortably the most expensive seat in the Premiership.

Arsenal followers appear unworried by the turmoil at Highbury — 18,500, a rise of more than 1,000, have committed themselves this season — and Middlesbrough, still in the grip of Ravanelli fever, have as good as sold out their 26,500 allocation, generating a large slice of the crop-haired Italian's £7 million transfer fee for Juventus.

Devotees of Leicester City appear unconvinced that their team can survive, with business "brisk yet unexceptional", but those of Sunderland and Derby County, the other promoted clubs, are abuzz with optimism. Derby have doubled sales to 13,000 and Sunderland have sold 13,000, with only 4,000 tickets left for match days at Roker Park.

Spare a thought, though, for Nottingham Forest. With no European campaign to look forward to, the City Ground's figures are down — from 20,500 to 17,000 — with the start of the season only days away. A fickle lot, Forest folk.

Club	1995-96		1996-97		% increase
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
Arsenal	£11.00	£25.00	£13.00	£27.00	7.5
A Villa	£13.00	£15.00	£13.00	£17.00	13
Blackburn	£14.00	£17.50	£15.00	£19.00	8.5
Chelsea	£10.00	£35.00	£10.00	£40.00	14
Coventry	£12.00	£20.00	£15.00	£20.00	24.5
Derby	£7.00	£12.00	£12.00	£19.00	59
Everton	£12.00	£17.00	£13.00	£18.00	5
Leeds	£14.00	£25.00	£14.00	£25.00	0
Leicester	£10.00	£18.00	£12.00	£20.00	11
Liverpool	£15.00	£16.00	£14.00	£17.00	6
Manchester Utd	£12.00	£18.00	£12.00	£18.00	0
Middlesbrough	£10.00	£15.00	£12.50	£19.00	26
Newcastle	£12.00	£20.00	£14.00	£23.00	15
Nottm Forest	£16.00	£18.00	£18.00	£20.00	11
Sheffield Wed	£8.50	£17.00	£8.00	£18.00	6
Southampton	£12.00	£18.00	£15.00	£18.00	25
Sunderland	£10.00	£16.00	£10.00	£22.00	46
Tottenham	£15.00	£32.00	£17.00	£33.00	6
West Ham	£14.00	£27.00	£16.00	£29.00	7.5
Wimbledon	£10.00	£25.00	£10.00	£25.00	0

Prices based on unaccompanied adult. Most clubs offer reduced rates for children, senior citizens or club membership card-holders. Prices can fluctuate depending on grade of match (ie quality of opposition)

Stevenage seek repeat performance

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

STEVENAGE Borough return from the High Court to the playing field today having gained nothing more than a moral victory to show for their legal struggle to win a place in the Football League.

Instead they must endure a nine-month struggle to repeat their success in the Vauxhall Conference before being able to present themselves again — armed this time with an A-grade ground certificate, which the work completed at Broadhall Way in the summer will allow them.

Stevenage's argument that the League's criteria for admission constituted restraint of trade won the sympathy of the court and a suggestion that they would have helped their cause by presenting their case earlier.

The judge's ruling, a 60-page document, landed on the desk of Peter Hunter, the chief executive of the Conference, this week, and the issue is certain to be top of the agenda when the League and the Conference hold the first of their regular meetings of the season, in September. "There are two main areas for concern," Hunter said. "One is the date for the completion of work; the other, the financial criteria."

The December 31 deadline was effectively a compromise between the League's wish to establish a deadline in August — before the start of the season — and the previous system, where clubs were inspected during the season and had until July 31 to do the work, having lodged a bond to its value.

The judge's highlighting of the absurdity of imposing

A-GRADE CLUBS

Bath City, Dover Athletic, Gateshead, Kettering Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Macclesfield Town, Southport, Woking.

financial criteria that many of the existing members of the League cannot meet suggests that there must be relaxation of the demands.

The issue might slide quietly through the night if it has occupied in the past three years because the Conference, with the help of funding from the Sports Ground Initiative, has steadily increased the number of its clubs with A grades.

History, nevertheless, is against Stevenage. In the previous two seasons Kidderminster Harriers and Macclesfield Town, newly up to standard, were unable to take

the championship again after being denied promotion because their grounds were not ready. Altrincham are still the only team to win the Conference in successive years. In Stevenage's favour, they have managed to retain most of their championship-winning squad, including Barry Hayles, who led the Conference goalcharts with 29.

Rushden and Diamonds will be looking to carry on their roll of success after their promotion from the former Beazer Homes, now Dr Martens, League. They will have to wait to achieve their A grading until the final stage of work in progress at Nene Park pushes their capacity to the minimum 6,000.

"We expect that one of the clubs with an A grade will take title, but in this game you never know," Hunter said.



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SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

New season brings high hopes after summer of startling recruitment

Imports open up new horizons

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL
CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH football, which once locked itself away from the world as if behind shuttered windows, has this summer truly opened up. Not only did we, as the Germans used *The Times* to say, do a good job of making everyone feel at home during the European championship, but for some of the foreign nationals this has been the place to stay.

The new season that starts this weekend has 55 overseas players in the FA Carling Premiership alone: some of them are genuine star material, some are earning more than the British cabinet combined. Exciting? Yes, but durable?

West Ham United, one of the new importers, start the new season with seven injured players before a ball is kicked. Either the training is pretty hot, or the newcomers do not travel well, or the great expansionism in European and



At the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, yesterday, a groundsman prepares for the opening FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool today. Photograph: Gill Allen

domestic competitions is simply making too great a demand on the nerve and sinew of too few quality performers.

But, let us celebrate losing our reputation as an insular island race. Perhaps, in consequence, we are losing some of our sanity as buyers in the market, as a country which has broken the world record to take Alan Shearer back home to Newcastle, and in which a club such as Coventry City, which struggles to fill its 23,500 seats, has lured Gary McAllister away from Leeds United and agreed to pay a 31-year-old £15,000 per week for the next three seasons. Coventry will need all the television money available to keep pace with that kind of outlay.

Then, tomorrow, we have Southampton. Here is a homey ground, The Dell, a relic of football's recent past, a doomed stadium that can hold with some discomfort 15,000 souls. How do they keep up? They entertain a Chelsea side that includes Vialli, a multi-

millionaire, plus Lehoucq, a wandering Frenchman, and Di Matteo, the fulcrum of the Italy side.

Against them is Graeme Souness, attempting to breathe fire into the local hero, Matthew Le Tissier. If he can do it, if the new England manager Glenn Hoddle watches with an open mind, then possibly the chemistry between the returning Scot and the sometimes reluctant English playmaker could propel Le Tissier straight into England's squad for World Cup qualifying. "I will ignite the fire in Le Tissier," said Souness. If instead he ignites the fire in Le Tissier's followers, there will be a speedy parting for one or the other.

Yet there is a gulf between a club such as Southampton and Manchester United, the defending champions and FA Cup winners, that beggars

belief. United are now playing in front of a £27m new grandstand, one that accommodates 25,110 people at rare altitude, and is in itself, greater than the capacity of Southampton, of Coventry City, Leicester City or Sunderland. But, our theme, is still football coming home. Manchester United, with an edge of ruthlessness, to go with the class, the youth and the imported blend, may be hard-pressed trying to make an imprint in Europe as well as retaining the title. Newcastle United appeared the logical championship contender, but the disarray at Wembley in the Charity Shield last Sunday was alarming. Perhaps Liverpool, if the players can match the commitment of their manager Roy Evans, can pip both of them.

Things are happening in the boardrooms too. Earlier this

THE MAJOR SUMMER MOVES

Fee	Player	From	To
£15 million	Alan Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	Newcastle United
£7 million	Fabrizio Ravanelli	Juventus	Middlesbrough
£4.9 million	Roberto Di Matteo	Lazio	Chelsea
£4.5 million	Lee Sharpe	Manchester United	Leeds United
£4 million	Sasa Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	Aston Villa
£3.5 million	Karel Poborsky	Sparta Prague	Manchester United
£3.5 million	Gary Speed	Leeds United	Everton
£3 million	Patrick Vieira	AC Milan	Leeds United
£2 million	Gary McAllister	Leeds United	Coventry City
£3 million	Patrick Berger	Borussia Dortmund	Liverpool

year Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, and his family sold club chairs to the value of £21m — sold to new money coming from Abu Dhabi. Intriguingly, and almost unobserved, Manchester United made a transfer to Leeds United during the past week.

No, not the Lee Sharpe transfer. I refer to the defection from United's boardroom to Elland Road of Robin Launders. He had been the

finance director on Manchester United's board since the club went public in 1991. Now that Leeds United has been purchased — for a sum little more than the transfer fee of Alan Shearer — by the Caspian Group, it too intends to float on the Stock Exchange and Launders has moved to oversee the flotation.

Interesting, almost as transient of the movement of players. By Wednesday next week we will perhaps forget

the financial implications, except for the fact that ordinary fans may not get into the stadium. At Stamford Bridge, where Chelsea play Middlesbrough, we have the intriguing prospect of Gianluca Vialli against Fabrizio Ravanelli, less than three months ago the twin spearheads of the Juventus team that won the European Cup. Now they are separate. Vialli wears the blue of Chelsea, Ravanelli the red of Middlesbrough.

The stadium at Chelsea can accommodate only 28,500 spectators. It would be irresistible, but for the even more compelling first appearance of Shearer at St James' Park against Wimbledon. The opposition could be anyone and still the Gordians would demand double and even treble the 36,000 seats available. Shearer's lure is that of a local

hero. In Wolverhampton, the art and museum has from now until mid-October, a tribute to "Billy Wright — local hero", a reflection in photographs and memorabilia of bygone days when a man leached not £15 million on the transfer market, but a maximum of £15 a week in wages.

Within a matter of weeks England step into the past, in the sense that they must play their first World Cup qualifying game in Moldova. There Shearer and the other potential millionaires play before people of a "new" nation where masses are unemployed. But the security forces in Moldova promise to keep, feed and house any of our hooligans who might venture there. They promise ten-year prison sentences... the shutters would thus be back up again for anyone foolish enough to provoke them.

Gooch and Graveney will form new-look A team

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE two likeliest candidates to succeed Raymond Illingworth as chairman of selectors will form an intriguing management team for the England A tour to Australia, which begins on October 23. David Graveney is to be tour manager. Graham Gooch the coach.

The appointments will come as a disappointment to Phil Neale, who had widely been expected to resume the coaching duties now that John Embury has graduated to the senior tour as assistant to David Lloyd. Mike Gatting had been tipped for the job, but he is being lined up to take charge of the under-19s.

The eight-week A tour includes four-day games against three Australian state sides and an Academy XI and Graveney and Gooch will command instant respect from what is likely to be a young playing party. It is a first official management assignment for both of them, although Graveney controversially took charge of the unsanctioned team to South Africa, captained by Gatting, in 1989.

Unusually, manager and coach will both be responsible for picking the players in their charge. Graveney is in his second year as a selector. Gooch his first, and when Illingworth stands down at the end of this season, it will be a surprise if one of them does not take over. Gooch's plans depend upon it — he is considering another one-year playing contract with Essex, but the chairman's role would persuade him to retire.

As yet, nobody knows who will make that decision, though the picture will become clearer on Tuesday when the Test and County Cricket Board is asked to adopt the Afield report into the management of the national team. The main plank of the recommendations is a return to an England management committee with broad duties, including all selectorial appointments.

Harford contemplates life without Shearer

THESE are interesting times for Blackburn Rovers. Twelve months ago the East Lancashire club went into the new season as champions but without Kenny Dalglish, the manager who won the Premiership; today they start without Alan Shearer and without great expectations, with the world wondering whether the bubble has burst and Rovers are set to return to mid-table mediocrity — or worse.

The hopes of 1995 were quickly dashed, and there was some criticism for the failure to strengthen the squad during that summer. Ray Harford's signings came even-

tually, but too little and too late to rescue their European Champions' League season. With a stronger squad, and more signings, Blackburn might have looked forward to a renewed challenge.

Now, the suspicion grows that Blackburn's place among the elite may be at risk. Jack Walker's money remains to give them the financial clout to match Newcastle United or Manchester United, but the loss of Shearer makes their ability to do so more questionable, and not just on the field.

The presence of Shearer made selling the club to players of his calibre a feasible

Peter Ball on prospects for Blackburn Rovers after the departure of their leading player

proposition — even Roy Keane took his time before deciding to go to Old Trafford rather than Ewood Park, while players such as Hendry, Le Saux, Flowers and Sutton were happy to follow where Shearer led.

At the start of the summer, Ray Harford said he hoped to add two or three top players to the team. He managed only one — George Donis, the Greece winger. The danger now is that there may be an

exodus in Shearer's wake. Last week, Lars Bohinen was highly critical of the decision to allow Shearer to leave, and suggested that if Blackburn were not challenging he might consider his options, while Tim Sherwood, the club captain, is continually being linked with Arsenal.

The supporters, too, are waiting questioningly. There have been no demonstrations or threats of boycotts in Blackburn, unlike at nearby Bolton

Wanderers, where the departure of Curcio has been greeted with fury. Some Blackburn fans, though, have returned their season tickets; perhaps more seriously, even before Shearer's transfer, more than one firm from the Fylde area that had taken boxes while the club was in the ascendancy have moved their custom back to Liverpool or Everton.

Harford insists that there is no pressure and believes the players will be all the more determined to prove that they were not a one-man team. "If you speak to the players," he said, "you'll find they are all of the same mind."

He has had one serious piece of bad luck. Chris Sutton, who replaced Shearer as the club's record signing, is injured again and likely to miss the first eight weeks of the season at a time when his presence could have been vital. But Harford, who has a strong streak of stoicism, refuses to let his misfortune.

Instead, he points to the signs that the club is beginning to produce its own players, with Damien Duff, a 17-year-old Irish boy in the squad today, and Shay Given ready to push Tim Flowers for the goalkeeper's place.

Big-hitter Klein takes Woburn in her stride

BY PATRICIA DAVIES



IT DOES not take much for Emilee Klein, a Californian as perfit as her surname would suggest, to become a mere dot on the horizon and after a second round of 66 in the Weetabix Women's British Open at Woburn yesterday, she was in danger of moving out of range of even the telescopic lenses.

Klein's total of 134 was 12 under par and left her five strokes ahead of a pursuing pack of some distinction, containing Karrie Webb, the defending champion, Annika Sorenstam, the US Women's Open champion, and Alison Nicholas, the Irish Open champion.

The quartet on six under par included Maria Hjorth, the latest in the long line of Swedish successes, who returned a second successive 70. A graduate of Stirling University, Hjorth is in her fifth tournament as a professional and she is a player of power and potential.

Klein is not one of the world's big hitters — she carries five woods, including a seven and a nine, and three wedges, so the longest iron in her bag is a five — but she hits the ball far enough, usually straight and

holes a lot of putts. "Her game is perfect for here," was the assessment of Laura Davies, who is intimidated by the confines of the Duke's Course, and only just made the cut after a round of 75, for a total of 147.

With Davies, it is a case of fearing Woburn's pines rather than pining for its first but more surprising was the performance of Liselotte Neumann, champion here in 1994. Normally the most consistent of players, she had a 77 and missed the cut with a total of 151.

At 51-in, Klein, 22, has to rely on rhythm and timing rather than brute force and she has not been visiting many trees recently. Her last five rounds have all been under 70 and last Sunday, in Massachusetts, she fired a final round of 65, seven under par, to come from behind to win the

Ping Welch's Championship by two shots from Webb.

Webb, of Australia, had an erratic round of 70 yesterday — there were five birdies, an eagle-three at the 13th — where she hit a three-iron to 20 feet — and four bogeys. She admitted the problem, apart from poor putting, had been in her head. "I think I was trying too hard because when I teed-off Emilee was 12 under, with only a hole to play. But I'm still in there," she added. "Emilee came from behind to beat me last week, now I'm coming from behind and she has got two days to protect her lead. She will want to stay aggressive, but that's hard with a five-shot lead."

Klein and Kenny Harnis, the caddy who became her boyfriend, are working their way through the world's top 100 courses — Cypress

Point, San Francisco Golf Club, the Olympic Club and Spyglass all fell on their last vacation.

One of the highlights of their round yesterday was birdie twos at all four short holes, a rare occurrence. Klein could not remember achieving before. She hit an eight-iron to six feet at the second, 134 yards (where the former US Open champion, Meg Mallon later hit a hole in one) a six-iron to three inches at the fifth, 158 yards; a seven-iron in eight feet at the eighth, 150 yards; and a nine-wood, to 35 feet at the 11th, 175 yards.

None of this, however, was caught on camera, for the BBC coverage did not start until later and as Klein came up the 18th, the camera behind the green was unaimed.

Also missed was the outstanding performance of Donna Andrews, who followed a first round of 80 with a sparkling 65 that included a run of six birdies in a row from the fourth. Out in 30, Andrews was still two over par but she had four more birdies coming home, including a four from two feet at the last, where she hit the hole with her approach.

At least there were some 12,000 people watching the action live, as the attendance records tumbled.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

134: E Klein (USA) 66, 66; 135: A Nicholas (GB) 71, A Sorenstam (Swe) 69, 70; K Webb (Aus) 68, 70; 140: M Hjorth (Swe) 70, 70; K Klein (USA) 70, 70; R Jones (GB) 71, L Hickson (GB) 71, 71; L Hudson (Eng) 68, 72; P Harnis (USA) 71, 70; C Johnson (USA) 72, 68; J Price (USA) 69, 73; N Yamazaki (Japan) 71, 70; 142: J Lusk (USA) 72, 70; P Reid (GB) 74, 74; B Hewitt (GB) 72, 71; K Parker (GB) 70, 73; L Bradley (GB) 70, 72; J Fisher (GB) 72, 71; K Marshall 71, 72; D Pepper
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(USA) 71, 72; J Morley 72, 71; 144: O Richard (USA) 71, 72; H Kobayashi (Japan) 71, 72; L Navarro (Col) 73, 71; C Matthews 71, 73; V Gordon (USA) 74, 70; C Ross (Swe) 73, 71; B Mucha (USA) 73, 71; C Foy (USA) (USA) 75, 69; 145: S Farng (USA) 70, 75; O Andrews (USA) 80, 65; M Beardon (USA) 73, 72; C Oley (GB) 73, 72; I Alptekin (GB) 70, 75; J O'Connell (USA) 72, 73; P Buckley (USA) 70, 73; H Aldredson (Swe) 69, 76; T Borrell (USA) 71, 74

* denotes amateur

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